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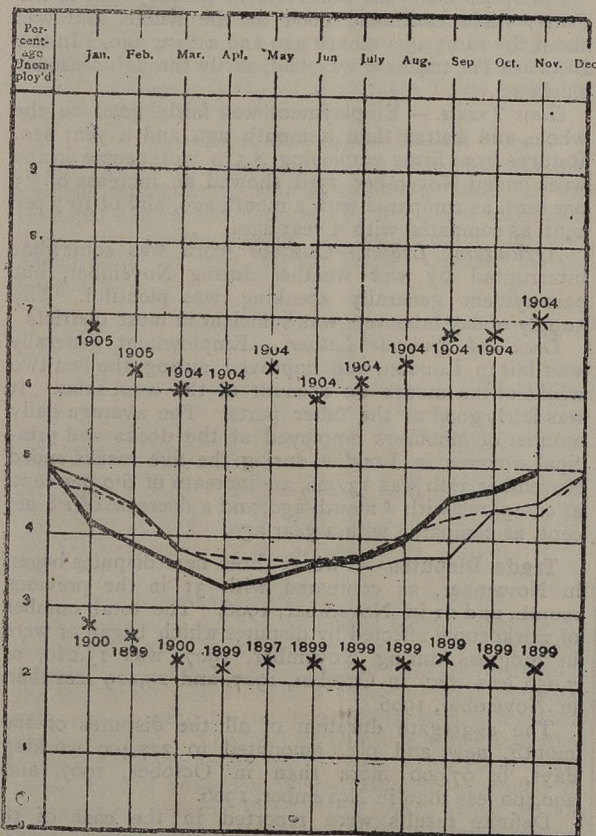
[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

EMPLOYMENT CHART

SHOWING PERCENTAGE UNEMPLOYED OF MEMBERS OF
TRADE UNIONS MAKING RETURNS.

—— Thick Curve=1907. —— Thin Curve=1906.
----- Dotted Curve=Mean of 1897-1906.

× The crosses indicate the maximum and minimum percentages of unemployed during the past ten years, with the dates thereof.



NOTE TO CHART.

The above Chart is based solely on Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by various Trade Unions which pay unemployed benefit to their members. Persons on strike or locked-out, sick or superannuated, are excluded from the figures. For November, 1907, the general and branch Returns of Unions related to 639,678 members in the following trades:—

Building... .. 64,506	Printing & Bookbinding 55,974
Coal Mining 121,234	Woodworking and Fur-
Engineering 163,982	nishing 35,028
Shipbuilding 58,684	Miscellaneous 17,712
Other Metal Trades ... 31,509	Total 639,678
Textiles 91,049	

STATE OF THE LABOUR MARKET IN NOVEMBER.

[In addition to the 2,697 Employment Returns from Trade Unions used for the Chart, 3,795 were received from employers relating to 1,122,339 workpeople employed in coal and iron mining, the cotton, woollen, worsted and other textile trades, the building trades, the boot and shoe and other clothing trades, and the paper and glass trades. Besides these 6,492 statistical returns, a large number of returns of a non-statistical character were received from Employers' Associations, Trade Unions, Local Correspondents, and other sources.]

EMPLOYMENT in November showed on the whole some decline, both as compared with the previous month and with a year ago. In coal mining and in the textile trades generally employment remained good, and there was a seasonal improvement in the printing and book-binding trades. In the building and shipbuilding industries it was bad.

As compared with a year ago there was an improvement in employment in coal mining, and in most of the textile and clothing trades, and a decline in the metal, engineering, building, and furnishing and woodworking trades.

In the 272 Trade Unions, with a net membership of 639,678, making Returns, 32,010 (or 5.0 per cent.) were reported as unemployed at the end of November, 1907, as compared with 4.7 per cent. at the end of October, 1907, and 4.5 per cent. at the end of November, 1906.

Coal Mining.—Employment in this industry continued very good. It showed a slight decline as compared with October, but was rather better than a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended November 23rd was 5.60, as compared with 5.64 in the previous month, and 5.50 in November, 1906.

Iron Mining.—Employment continued good, but showed a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. The average number of days worked per week at the pits during the four weeks ended November 23rd was 5.78, as compared with 5.82 days in the previous month and 5.89 days a year ago.

Pig Iron Industry.—Employment in this industry during November was fairly good. It was not so good as either a month ago or a year ago. Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters employing over 24,000 workpeople showed 330 furnaces in blast at the end of November, as compared with 335 in October, 1907, and 342 in November, 1906.

Iron and Steel Works.—Employment at iron and steel works showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago. The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended November 23rd, 1907, at the 200 works from which Returns were received, was 3.7 per cent. less than in the week ended October 26th, 1907, and 4.9 per cent. less than a year ago.

Tinplate and Steel Sheet Manufacture.—Employment in this industry during November continued good, and was rather better than a year ago. At the works covered by the Returns 447 tinplate and sheet mills were working at the end of November, as compared with 444 in the previous month, and 441 a year ago.

Engineering Trades.—Employment in November continued fair on the whole, but showed some tendency to decline. It was not so good as a year ago. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 4.7, as compared with 4.5 per cent. a month ago, and 3.5 per cent. a year ago.

Shipbuilding Trades.—Employment was slack, especially on the North-East Coast, and worse than a month ago. The comparison with November, 1906, is affected by the labour disputes which took place last year. The percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 12.8, as compared with 11.6 in October, and 13.6 per cent. in November, 1906.

Cotton Trade.—Employment in the *Spinning* branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the *Weaving* branch it was fair, and not quite so good as a month ago or a year ago.

Woolen Trade.—Employment on the whole was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 28,250 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Worsted Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 50,411 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Flax (Linen) Trade.—Employment continued good during the earlier part of the month, and was better than a year ago; towards the end of the month a decline was reported. Returns from firms employing 49,293 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 4.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Jute Trade.—Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 18,630 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 7.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Silk Trade.—Employment was fairly good on the whole. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 9,009 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd, 1907, showed a decrease of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid as compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.4 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Lace Trade.—Employment was moderate in England, fair in Scotland. Returns received from firms employing 9,404 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago, and of 4.2 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Hosiery Trade.—Employment was fair in England and good in Scotland; on the whole it was not so good as a month ago and better than a year ago. Firms employing 17,773 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Tailoring Trade.—Employment in the *bespoke* branch in London was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the provinces it was quiet. In the *ready-made* branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Hat Trades.—Employment during November in the *Silk Hat* branch was bad; in the *Felt Hat* branch it was disorganised by a dispute. The percentage of Trade Union members returned as unemployed at the end of

November in the *Silk Hat* trade was 16.0, compared with 12.1 a month ago and 10.2 a year ago.

Boot and Shoe Trade.—Employment generally continued fair, and was better than a year ago. Returns from firms employing 59,856 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Leather Trades.—Employment was moderate. It was worse than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,759 had 5.8 per cent of their members unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.9 per cent. in October, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

Paper Making Trades.—Employment in these trades continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Printing and Bookbinding Trades.—Employment was fairly good, as is usual at this season of the year. In the printing trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 3.3, as compared with 4.9 in October, and 3.3 in November, 1906. In the bookbinding trade the percentages for the same periods were 2.7, 3.5, and 2.2 respectively.

Building Trades.—Employment in November was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Furnishing and Woodworking Trades.—Employment during November was moderate, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.4 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of November, 1907, as compared with 5.2 per cent. a month ago and 4.8 per cent. a year ago.

Pottery and Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment in the *Pottery* trade continued good on the whole, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. In the *Brick and Tile* trades it was bad, partly through seasonal slackness.

Glass Trades.—Employment was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. Returns from firms employing 8,519 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 3.3 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and of 10.7 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Agricultural Labour.—Outdoor work was somewhat interrupted by wet weather during November, but employment generally speaking was plentiful. The supply of day labourers was sufficient in most districts.

Dock and Riverside Labour.—Employment generally was fair in London, and improved during the last two weeks of the month on account of the wool sales. It was fairly good at the other ports. The average daily number of labourers employed at the docks and principal wharves in London during the five weeks ended November 30th was 13,906, an increase of 6.0 per cent. as compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Trade Disputes.—Twenty-three new disputes began in November, as compared with 31 in the previous month, and 21 in November, 1906. The total number of workpeople affected by disputes which began or were in progress during November, 1907, was 13,210, or 7,056 less than in October, 1907, and 29,429 less than in November, 1906.

The aggregate duration of all the disputes of the month, new and old, amounted to 227,400 working days, or 97,900 more than in October, 1907, and 290,400 less than in November, 1906.

Definite results were reported in the case of 18 disputes, new and old, directly affecting 2,900 persons. Of these 18 disputes, four were decided in favour of the workpeople, eight in favour of the employers, and six were compromised.

Changes in Rates of Wages.—The changes reported in November affected 284,300 workpeople, of whom 280,800 received advances and 3,500 sustained decreases. The number whose wages were increased included 110,000 coal miners in Durham and 165,000 in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The total computed effect of all the changes reported was a net advance of about £10,700 per week.

TRADE UNIONS IN 1906.

A REPORT* was issued by the Department in December, 1905, in which the statistics of membership, funds, &c., of Trade Unions were brought up to the end of 1904. Some statistics for 1905 were given in the LABOUR GAZETTE for December, 1906 (p. 352). In the present article the figures are revised and continued for 1906.

Membership of all Trade Unions.

At the end of 1906 the number of Trade Unions known by the Department to be in existence was 1,161, with a total membership of 2,106,283. This membership was the highest on record, and shows increases of 10.1 per cent. compared with 1905, and of 27.7 per cent. compared with 1897. Compared with 1892—the first year for which comparative statistics are available—the increase was 39.2 per cent.

The most considerable changes in membership in 1906 were increases of 73,000 (or 15.3 per cent.) in the coal mining group of Unions; of 36,000 (or 13.8 per cent.) in the textile group; and of 19,000 (or 23.7 per cent.) among railway servants. There were also large proportionate increases in the groups of Unions of general labourers, of employees of public authorities, and of miscellaneous trades (shop assistants, music hall artistes, telephone employees, &c.). In the engineering, shipbuilding, and metal trades group there was an increase of 22,000, but this represents only 6.4 per cent. of the membership of the group in 1905. In the building trade Unions, on the other hand, there was a decline in membership for the sixth year in succession. In 1906 the decline was 9,000 (or 4.5 per cent.) compared with 1905, and 58,000 (or 22.7 per cent.) compared with 1900.

The number of female members of Trade Unions rose from 125,142 at the end of 1904 to 135,477 in 1905, and 162,453 in 1906, an increase of 29.8 per cent. in two years. A large majority of the female Trade Unionists are engaged in the textile trades.

Accounts of 100 Principal Unions.†

The following summary shows the membership, income, expenditure, and accumulated funds of 100 principal Unions for each of the ten years 1897-1906. These 100 Unions include 60 per cent. of the total membership of the 1,161 Trade Unions in the Kingdom:—

Year.	Membership at end of Year.	Income.		Expenditure.		Funds at end of Year	
		Total.	Per Member. (a)	Total.	Per Member. (a)	Total.	Per Member. (a)
1897	1,038,993	£ 1,970,962	s. d. 36 2½	£ 1,891,027	s. d. 34 8½	£ 2,231,007	s. d. 40 11½
1898	1,067,612	£ 1,992,130	35 7½	£ 1,476,337	27 8	£ 2,656,800	49 9½
1899	1,147,731	£ 1,835,598	31 11½	£ 1,253,011	21 9½	£ 3,240,187	56 5½
1900	1,191,315	£ 1,947,957	32 8½	£ 1,456,716	24 5½	£ 3,731,425	62 7½
1901	1,195,944	£ 2,043,051	34 1½	£ 1,641,031	27 4½	£ 4,134,293	68 11½
1902	1,197,059	£ 2,086,819	34 10½	£ 1,800,234	30 1	£ 4,420,883	73 10½
1903	1,184,708	£ 2,100,996	35 5½	£ 1,917,105	32 4½	£ 4,604,774	77 8½
1904	1,177,159	£ 2,115,992	35 11½	£ 2,064,900	34 10½	£ 4,665,857	79 3½
1905	1,189,707	£ 2,211,733	37 2½	£ 2,064,535	34 8½	£ 4,813,055	80 11½
1906	1,273,995	£ 2,344,157	36 9½	£ 1,958,676	30 9	£ 5,198,556	81 7½

(a) Calculated on the membership at the end of each year.

The income of the 100 Principal Unions showed, for the seventh year in succession, an increase in total amount, but the amount per head of total membership at the end of the year showed a slight decrease compared with 1905, owing to the large influx of new members during the year. The total expenditure, which had risen during the previous six years, declined in 1906, chiefly owing to the reduction in the amount expended on unemployed benefits during the year, owing to the improvement in the state of trade. The average amount of funds per member has shown an increase every year during the period 1897-1906, and is now over £4, against £2 at the end of 1897.

The group of trades showing the greatest rise in funds, as compared with 1904, was the textile group, in which the increase was £185,000 (or 26.9 per cent.). The building trades, on the other hand, showed a decline in

* Report on Trade Unions in the United Kingdom. Cd. 2838. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., 1s. 2d.

† The 100 Unions here included differ in a few cases from those of which the financial details are given in the Department's Report on Trade Unions in 1902-04. The figures for 1897-1904 have therefore been revised throughout in order that the figures now given for the 10 years 1897-1906 may be strictly comparable.

total funds; but the amount of funds per head in this group showed little change.

During the ten years under review £17,512,000 has been spent by the 100 Principal Unions. Of this amount about £3,874,000, or 22.1 per cent., has been spent on unemployed benefits; £2,345,000, or 13.4 per cent. on dispute pay; and £7,438,000, or 42.5 per cent., on other benefits (principally sick, accident, superannuation, and funeral benefits); the remaining £3,855,000, or 22.0 per cent., having been used in the payment of working and miscellaneous expenses. The Table below gives for each of the years 1897-1906 the figures on which these percentages have been calculated:—

Year.	Unemployed Benefits.		Dispute Benefit.		Other Benefits.		Working and other Expenses.	
	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.	Amount.	Per cent. of Total Expenditure.
1897	£ 331,108	17.5	£ 647,030*	34.2	£ 595,365	31.5	£ 317,521	16.8
1898	234,061	15.9	326,094*	22.1	607,840	41.1	308,342	20.9
1899	184,843	14.8	119,834	9.6	620,491	49.5	326,543	26.1
1900	161,560	13.0	153,354	10.5	679,556	46.6	362,216	24.9
1901	325,392	19.8	210,073	12.8	719,991	43.9	285,625	23.5
1902	429,090	23.8	219,125	12.2	748,850	41.6	403,169	22.4
1903	514,899	26.9	173,350	9.0	791,165	41.3	437,691	22.8
1904	652,471	31.8	126,843	6.2	849,225	41.3	445,470	20.7
1905	519,541	25.2	214,199	10.4	902,496	43.7	428,299	20.7
1906	421,292	21.5	154,817	7.9	922,993	47.1	459,574	23.5
Average for ten years	£ 387,426	22.1	£ 234,473	13.4	£ 743,797	42.5	£ 385,477	22.0

The expenditure upon unemployed benefits is shown by groups of trades in the next Table. In each of the principal groups the expenditure was less in 1906 than in the two previous years. In the building trades the improvement was comparatively slight, employment remaining bad. In the metal, engineering, and shipbuilding group, on the other hand, the expenditure was less than in any year since 1901, while in the textile group employment continued very good, the expenditure on unemployed benefits being the lowest on record.

Year.	Building Trades.	Mining and Quarrying.	Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding.	Textile.	Other Trades.
1897	£ 24,216	£ 25,273	£ 194,240	£ 41,505	£ 45,774
1898	22,240	13,942	104,510	34,206	59,154
1899	24,277	10,400	80,512	26,457	43,188
1900	46,355	4,540	94,227	60,782	55,656
1901	67,228	18,475	132,932	43,999	62,758
1902	73,804	19,387	203,965	55,748	76,185
1903	80,802	18,468	224,950	113,745	76,934
1904	137,406	48,403	303,749	71,624	91,889
1905	142,987	35,564	227,747	24,428	88,815
1906	125,574	30,585	157,137	24,049	85,947

The average amount of expenditure of the 100 Unions on unemployed benefits was 6s. 7½d. per member in 1906, as compared with 8s. 8¾d. in 1905, 11s. 1d. in 1904, and 3s. 2¾d. in 1899, a year of maximum employment. On dispute benefit the expenditure averaged 2s. 5½d. per member in 1906, the average for the seven years 1899-1905 being 2s. 11½d.

During the period 1897-1905 the expenditure on sick, accident, and superannuation benefits showed a large and continuous increase, having risen from 4s. 8¼d. per head of total membership of the 100 Unions in the case of sick and accident, and 2s. 8¼d. in the case of superannuation in 1897, to 6s. 9d. for sick and accident, and 4s. 9¾d. for superannuation in 1905. In 1906 the cost per member of sick and accident benefits fell slightly to 6s. 6d., while superannuation remained stationary at 4s. 9¾d. This is explained by the fact that the amounts per head are calculated on the membership at the end of each year, while there was a considerable rise in membership during 1906.

Since 1892 the number of superannuated members has increased from about 5,600 to about 15,100, and the cost per head of membership of those Unions which pay the benefit has increased from 5s. to 10s. The average annual amount received by superannuated members was £17 5s. in 1892, £18 11s. in 1897, and £20 1s. in 1906.

* The great dispute in the engineering trade was in progress in 1897-8.

LANCASHIRE COTTON SPINNERS' DISPUTE.

In March, 1907, the Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners applied to the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association for an alteration in the Oldham Spinners' List and Conditions to the amount of 20 cent. advance for the spinning of 60's twist counts and upwards, and for an advance of 12½ per cent. for the spinning of 60's weft counts and upwards.

The employers, in view of a general advance of 5 per cent. granted to cotton spinners in June, 1907, contended that the demand was a contravention of Clause 4 of the Brooklands Agreement governing the spinning trade, which states that—

"no advance or reduction of . . . wages . . . shall in future be sought for by the employers or the employed until after the expiration of at least one year from the date of the previous advance or reduction, as the case may be; nor shall any such advance or reduction, when agreed upon, be more or less than 5 per cent. upon the then current standard wages being paid."

The employers offered to submit the question of the alleged breach of the Brooklands Agreement to arbitration; and in the event of the arbitrator finding against the employers' view, they stated that they were prepared to grant an advance of 5 per cent., from the date of the arbitrator's award, on the terms and conditions of the Oldham list for the counts specified in the men's application, pending the formation of a universal list. On the other hand the operatives held that Clause 4 of the Brooklands Agreement referred to general wages changes, and not to a demand of the character they had put forward.

Various conferences, both local and central, were held, but no settlement was arrived at. In consequence the operatives at the mills affected handed in, on November 16th, notices to cease work. On November 22nd the President of the Board of Trade met the parties in conference at Manchester, and on the next day the following temporary settlement was arrived at:—

- (1) The men's notices to be post-dated for a fortnight.
- (2) The Board of Trade will immediately approach the Law Officers of the Crown, with a view to obtaining their opinion as to the interpretation of Clause 4 of the Brooklands agreement. The information shall be obtained with the least possible delay, in any case by Wednesday, December 4th. It will be obtained on the sole responsibility of the Board of Trade, but any statement of the views of the parties on the disputed points which may be received from them before Wednesday next will be utilized in preparing the case to be submitted.
- (3) Pending the receipt of the opinion, and in order to save time, the parties to proceed to discuss the merits of the operatives' request, without prejudice, and on the clear understanding that any provisional conclusions reached are subject to the condition that if the opinion, when received, supports the employers' contention, they will be null and void, and matters will at once revert to their present position. The first meeting to be held in Manchester on Wednesday next.

On December 3rd the following decision was issued by the Law Officers of the Crown:—

We are of opinion that the demand put forward contravenes the fourth clause of the Brooklands agreement. That demand is for an increase of so much per cent. on the wages as settled in June last, and although it is only put forward in the case of some operatives, we still think it is a demand for an advance in the wages then agreed upon within the meaning of the clause in question. We are unable to accept the view that demands for advances can be made piecemeal which could not be made by the whole body of operatives.

While expressing the above opinion on the point which has actually arisen, we desire to add that, in our opinion, demands which are in reality for a re-arrangement or revision of allowances or conditions which have become inappropriate to a particular section of the trade would not necessarily be subject to the provisions of Clause 4 merely because they might allow such section to earn *de facto* larger wages than they would earn before.

(Signed) JOHN L. WALTON.
W. S. ROBSON.
S. A. T. ROWLATT.

In accordance with the terms of the temporary settlement arrived at on November 23rd, further negotiations had been entered into, and on December 5th the

President of the Board of Trade again visited Manchester and the dispute was settled between the parties themselves on the following terms:—

That the quick-speed clause of the Oldham list be modified so that the mules running slower than three draws in 44 seconds for a 63 in. stretch have added to their gross earnings payment for 1-12th of the number of seconds they run quicker than three draws in 120 seconds for a 63 in. stretch at the rate per second provided for in the quick-speed clause.

Those mules now running quicker than three draws in 44 seconds for a 63 in. stretch to continue to receive what the present clause gives them.

If the recommendation is agreed to by both sides, then on and after January 1st, 1908, the method of putting this amendment into operation shall be left to the respective local secretaries, provided always that any firm which has already made concessions above the Oldham list may cease the said concessions in substitution for the new quick-speed clause and shall at the option of either side have a retiming.

OTHER RECENT CASES UNDER THE CONCILIATION ACT.

Shipbuilding Demarcation Dispute (Drillers v. Shipbuilders), Cardiff.

Mr. J. Burnett, the Umpire appointed by the Board of Trade in this case (*see* LABOUR GAZETTE for November, p. 324), presided over the meeting for the settlement of this dispute, at Cardiff on November 19th and 20th. After hearing evidence, the arbitrators issued an award, which was unanimous on all points. Mr. Burnett was therefore not called upon to give a decision between the parties in his capacity of Umpire.

The following are the questions in dispute, together with the decisions arrived at:—

- Whose work is it to do the drilling in connection with
- (A) The honeycombing of scarphs upon keels, stems and stern posts? [May be done by boiler-makers or by drillers.]
 - (B) The drilling in connection with rudder pintles? [May be done by boiler-makers or by drillers.]
 - (C) The drilling of holes for tapping? [To be done by boiler-makers.]
 - (D) The drilling and countersinking of plain holes? [May be done by boiler-makers or by drillers.]

Tailors, London, E.

On November 11th an application was made to the Board of Trade by the joint secretaries of the Federated Conciliation Board of London Tailors, asking for the appointment of a conciliator to deal with certain difficulties which had arisen in connection with the movement to introduce new working conditions (as to hours of labour) in the East End tailoring trade.

The Board of Trade on November 21st appointed Mr. W. B. Yates to act in that capacity.

CHANGES IN WAGES AND HOURS, 1906.

FROM the fourteenth Annual Report on Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour, just published,* it appears that the upward tendency in wages which began in the second half of 1905 continued throughout 1906. The number of workpeople who had their rates of wages changed during 1906 was 1,115,000; of whom 1,098,000 received net advances amounting to £58,400 per week, 5,000 sustained net decreases amounting to £500, and the remaining 12,000 had upward and downward changes which left their wages at the same level at the end of the year as at the beginning. The net result of all the changes was therefore an increase of £57,900 per week. The figures given are exclusive of agricultural labourers, seamen and railway servants, the numbers affected by changes in rates of wages in these groups not being known.

Of the 1,098,000 workpeople whose changes in rates of wages resulted in net advances, nearly 418,600 were employed in coal mining, and 12,400 in other mining (iron, &c.); 402,500 in the textile industries; 152,000 in the engineering and shipbuilding trades; nearly

* Cd. 3713. Wyman & Sons, Ltd. Price 9d.

69,000 in the manufacture of pig iron, and of iron and steel; and about 29,200 were in the employ of Public Authorities.

The period of ten years preceding 1906 included five years of rising wages (1896-1900), and five years of falling wages (1901-1905). The net increase or decrease per week in each year was as follows:—

1896	...	+	£26,519	1901	...	-	£76,587
1897	...	+	£31,507	1902	...	-	£72,595
1898	...	+	£80,713	1903	...	-	£38,327
1899	...	+	£90,314	1904	...	-	£39,230
1900	...	+	£208,590	1905	...	-	£2,169

It will be seen that the aggregate of the increases was considerably greater than that of the decreases, the net result of the rise and fall of the ten years 1896-1905 having been an increase of nearly £209,000 a week. If 1906 be included, the net amount of increase since the end of 1895 would be nearly £267,000 per week. Moreover, while the rise in wages in the ascending period affected every group of trades, the fall in the later period was not so uniform in its effect, and in some of the groups wages are still at, or above, the level attained in 1900.

All the principal groups of trades, except quarrying, have participated in the rise of wages which has taken place since 1895. Coal mining accounts for the largest rise, viz., £92,000 per week in the eleven years; the building trades account for £40,000; the engineering and shipbuilding trades for £37,000; textile trades for £35,000; and pig iron and iron and steel manufacture for £17,000.

As regards the changes in 1906 alone, coal mining participated to the extent of £27,200; textile trades to the extent of £12,900; and engineering and shipbuilding to the extent of £8,700.

The number of workpeople whose changes were preceded by a stoppage of work formed in 1906, as in previous years, an inconsiderable fraction of the whole. Broadly speaking, it may be said that changes in rates of wages are, as a rule, arranged by Conciliation Boards in the coal mining industry; by sliding scales in the iron and steel industry; and by direct negotiation in the textile and engineering industries.

The number of workpeople whose recognised hours of labour were changed in 1906 was 54,954, of whom 52,069 had their hours of labour reduced. The net effect of all the changes was a reduction of 98,892 hours in the weekly working time of the workpeople affected. The principal changes were in the metal, engineering and shipbuilding trades, and in the building trades.

During the first six months of 1907, the upward movement of wages continued, and affected all the principal groups of trades. Altogether 1,150,000 workpeople have had an aggregate increase of £107,800 per week; more than four times as much as the corresponding increase in the first six months of 1906. The principal net increases are:—coal mining, £88,000; textile trades, £11,000; metal, engineering, and shipbuilding trades, £6,000.

CO-OPERATION IN GREAT BRITAIN, 1906.*

THE following particulars relate to Distribution and Production in 1906 by co-operative societies in Great Britain only. Co-operation in Ireland will be dealt with separately in a later issue.

SUMMARY.—Production and Distribution.

Returns from Workmen's Co-operative Societies for Production and Distribution in Great Britain show that 1,685 such societies were at work in 1906. These societies had a total membership of 2,263,562, or 9.9 per cent. of the estimated population of Great Britain of 20 years of age and upwards in 1906. Their total capital amounted to £42,813,348, being made up of £29,937,175 shares, £9,611,901 loans, and £3,264,272 reserve and insurance funds. Compared with 1905, there was an increase of 21 societies, an increase in membership of 3.2 per cent., and in total capital of 5.6 per cent.

* Based upon Returns made direct to the Department by the societies concerned, and upon Returns made to the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and to the Co-operative Union.

On a total trade of £110,085,826, which was an increase of 5.2 per cent. over 1905, the net profit for the year was £10,911,072, which is equal to 36.4 per cent. upon the total share capital of all the societies, compared with £10,380,078, or 37.4 per cent., in 1905. The total number of persons directly employed by the 1,685 societies was 107,727, an increase over 1905 of 5.0 per cent.

The societies may be divided into three groups, viz.: (1) Societies established primarily for Production; (2) Societies established primarily for Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Societies established primarily for Retail Distribution; but as many of the societies in the two latter groups produce goods distributed by them, it will be convenient to group the figures relating to such societies according to the nature of the business and to present the totals under the following heads: (1) Production; (2) Wholesale Distribution; and (3) Retail Distribution.

The Table below shows the trade under each of these heads for each of the years 1896-1906, together with the total trade of all the groups, and the increase and percentage increase in 1906 over 1896.

Year.	Production.	Wholesale Distribution.	Retail Distribution.	Total Trade.
1896	£ 7,150,561	£ 14,937,637	£ 36,641,445	£ 58,729,643
1897	8,869,031	16,325,997	40,097,731	65,292,759
1898	9,740,728	17,267,078	42,545,914	69,553,720
1899	10,222,375	19,226,654	45,016,860	74,465,889
1900	11,400,276	21,507,520	50,281,626	83,229,422
1901	12,334,108	23,342,825	52,717,371	88,394,304
1902	13,524,095	24,456,678	55,261,072	93,241,845
1903	14,184,109	25,728,630	57,453,470	97,366,209
1904	15,027,440	26,610,468	59,341,525	100,979,433
1905	15,734,478	27,725,207	61,150,906	104,610,591
1906	16,859,666	29,650,218	63,575,942	110,085,826
Increase 1906 over 1896	9,709,105	14,712,581	26,934,497	51,356,183
Percentage increase	135.8	98.5	73.5	87.4

I.—Production.

The Returns received for the year 1906 show that 2 wholesale and 886 retail societies for distribution, 6 corn mills, and 145 other productive societies, or a total of 1,039 societies of all classes, with 45,363 productive employees, were engaged in the production of goods amounting in value to £16,859,666, the total amount paid in wages being £2,432,819. Of these societies 823, with 31,959 employees and a total production of £11,949,535, were in England and Wales; and 216, with 13,404 employees and a production of £4,910,131, were in Scotland.

Year.	Value of Production by Societies established primarily for				Total Production by all Classes of Societies.
	Production.		Wholesale Distribution.	Retail Distribution.	
	Corn Milling Societies.	Other Productive Societies.	*	*	
1896	£ 1,070,543	£ 1,311,023	£ 2,119,228	£ 2,649,767	£ 7,150,561
1897	1,264,402	1,401,646	2,905,167	3,297,816	8,869,031
1898	1,408,646	1,458,657	3,191,896	3,683,529	9,740,728
1899	1,184,385	1,573,121	3,538,184	3,906,385	10,222,375
1900	1,226,995	1,655,415	4,165,030	4,338,856	11,400,276
1901	1,234,311	1,690,263	4,680,922	4,728,613	12,334,108
1902	1,303,682	1,745,962	5,233,115	5,241,336	13,524,095
1903	1,377,703	1,778,927	5,320,685	5,506,791	14,184,109
1904	1,345,207	1,814,007	5,812,970	6,055,256	15,027,440
1905	1,378,328	1,824,330	6,154,113	6,359,707	15,734,478
1906	995,018	1,913,146	7,150,183	6,801,319	16,859,666
Increase or Decrease in 1906 over 1896	106,885†	632,123	5,030,955	4,151,552	9,709,105
Percentage Increase or Decrease	9.9†	48.2	237.4	156.7	135.8

From this Table it appears that, except with the eight Corn Milling Societies, two of which were amalgamated with the English Wholesale Society during 1906, the increase has been continuous. Comparing 1906 with 1896, an increase of 135.8 per cent. is shown in the total production, the most rapid advance having been made

* In these societies the goods produced are usually transferred to the distributive departments and not sold direct from the productive departments. † Decrease.

by the societies for Wholesale Distribution, which show an increase in production of 237·4 per cent.

In the following Table the total production (£16,859,666) of all classes of societies in 1906 is split up so as to show the nature and extent of the principal industries carried on by each class of society separately:—

Industries carried on by Societies of all Classes.	Associations for Production, including Corn Milling.	Associations for Wholesale Distribution.*	Associations for Retail Distribution.*	Totals.
Food and Tobacco	1,684,235	4,453,059	4,955,399	11,092,693
Clothing	357,437	1,095,974	1,408,059	2,901,470
Textiles	394,625	256,391	6,058	657,074
Building, Quarrying, Brickmaking, Woodworking and Furnishing	112,781	232,954	275,030	620,765
Farming, Dairying and Fishing	52,791	345,259	127,999	526,049
Soap and Candle Making	—	—	523,786	523,786
Printing, &c.	151,870	164,978	4,573	321,421
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	95,927	50,958	10,826	158,721
Other Industries	17,495	26,804	13,375	57,674
Total for 1906	2,908,164	7,150,133	6,801,319	16,859,666
Total for 1905	3,210,658	6,154,113	6,359,707	15,734,478
Percentage increase in 1906 over 1905	9·4†	16·2	6·8	7·2

It will be seen that food and tobacco account for nearly two-thirds of the total production, followed by the clothing group, which accounts for over one-sixth.

The next Table shows the number of employees engaged in production in 1906, and the wages paid to them, arranged in the same groups of industries and classes of societies.

Industries.	Associations for Production, including Corn Milling.		Associations for Wholesale Distribution.		Associations for Retail Distribution.		Totals.	
	No. of Employees.	Wages paid. †	No. of Employees.	Wages paid. †	No. of Employees.	Wages paid. †	No. of Employees.	Wages paid. †
Food and Tobacco	1,964	130,704	3,316	163,799	5,875	403,324	11,155	697,827
Clothing	2,996	111,216	7,321	349,455	11,911	373,694	22,028	1,034,865
Textiles	1,202	91,651	1,304	54,706	80	1,851	2,893	148,188
Building, Quarrying, and Woodworking, &c., Furnishing	815	50,969	1,468	103,412	1,618	123,042	3,901	277,423
Farming, Dairying, and Fishing	111	5,266	484	24,430	375	19,495	970	49,101
Soap and Candle Making	—	—	764	33,342	—	—	764	33,342
Printing, &c.	842	58,954	1,237	56,002	31	931	2,110	115,887
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	788	38,301	170	11,778	78	5,338	1,036	55,417
Other Industries	211	7,432	137	7,828	128	5,559	476	20,769
Total for 1906	8,836	494,993	16,431	804,752	20,096	1,133,074	45,363	2,432,819

It will be seen that about 40 per cent. of the total employees engaged in production were employed in the clothing trades, and nearly 30 per cent. in the preparation of food of various kinds.

Of the total employees engaged in production, 25,497, or 56 per cent., were men; 13,005, or 29 per cent., women; and the remaining 6,861, or 15 per cent., young persons under 18 years of age.

Of the 1,039 societies of all classes, 159 allotted sums to their employees engaged in production out of the profits of the year. The total amount so allotted was £31,957 among 13,333 employees of societies paying £712,804 in wages. Thus the profit allotted to employees amounted to about £2 7s. 11d. per head, or 4·5 per cent. on the wages paid, compared with £2 6s. 9d. per head, or 4·4 per cent., allotted in 1905 by 152 societies.

II.—Wholesale Distribution.

The two wholesale societies of England and Scotland are Federations for the wholesale purchase and manufacture of the goods required by the retail distributive societies.

The following Table shows the growth in the distributive trade of the societies for wholesale distribution in England and Wales and in Scotland respectively, during each of the years 1896-1906, together with the totals

* In these societies the goods produced are usually transferred to the distributive departments, and not sold direct from the productive departments.
† Decrease.
‡ These figures are exclusive of the number and wages of employees engaged in distribution.

for Great Britain, and the increase and percentage increase during the period.

Year.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Total, Great Britain.
1896	11,115,056	3,824,581	14,937,637
1897	11,920,143	4,405,854	16,325,997
1898	12,574,748	4,662,330	17,237,078
1899	14,212,375	5,014,189	19,226,564
1900	16,043,889	5,463,631	21,507,520
1901	17,642,082	5,700,743	23,342,825
1902	18,397,559	6,059,119	24,456,678
1903	19,333,142	6,395,488	25,728,630
1904	19,809,196	6,801,272	26,610,468
1905	20,785,469	6,939,738	27,725,207
1906	22,510,035	7,140,183	29,650,218
Increase in 1905 over 1896	11,394,979	3,317,602	14,712,581
Percentage Increase	102·5	86·8	98·5

III.—Retail Distribution.

The work of retail distribution is carried on mainly by retail stores with a general trade, but partly also by societies connected mainly with agriculture, the latter being almost entirely a growth of the past five years.

(a) Stores.

The Returns for 1906 show that 1,419 retail Stores were trading in that year. Their total membership was 2,214,961, an increase of 3·2 per cent. over 1905; their total share, loan, and reserve capital £33,311,974, an increase of 5·1 per cent.; their total sales amounted to £63,152,503, an increase of 3·7 per cent.; and their total profit to £9,960,511, an increase of 4·3 per cent. The total number of persons employed by these Stores in the work of distribution was 56,646, an increase of 4·9 per cent.

The following Table shows the sales of the Retail Stores only in each country for each of the years 1896-1906, together with the totals for Great Britain, and the total and percentage increase during the period:—

Year.	England and Wales.	Scotland.	Total, Great Britain.
1896	29,469,048	7,152,938	36,621,986
1897	31,797,430	8,277,539	40,074,969
1898	33,581,525	8,839,733	42,421,258
1899	35,414,557	9,570,933	44,985,490
1900	39,326,406	10,654,410	49,980,816
1901	41,543,850	11,126,869	52,670,719
1902	43,493,092	11,711,028	55,204,120
1903	45,083,106	12,289,746	57,372,852
1904	46,809,821	12,951,886	59,761,707
1905	47,268,418	13,333,135	60,601,553
1906	49,336,474	13,816,029	63,152,503
Increase in 1906 over 1896	19,867,426	6,663,097	26,530,523
Percentage Increase	67·4	93·2	72·4

(b) Miscellaneous.

The miscellaneous Societies engaged in distribution, mainly connected with agriculture, numbered 113 in 1906, 106 being in England and Wales, and 7 in Scotland. They had a total membership of 9,904, and a total share, loan, and reserve capital of £43,532. They sold goods in 1906 to the value of £423,439, upon which a profit of £2,826 was made. The total number of employees was 169.

INSURANCE AGAINST SICKNESS AND ACCIDENTS.

NEW HUNGARIAN LAW.

On July 1st, 1907, a new Hungarian law came into force providing for the insurance of employees against sickness and accidents. The new law amends the legislation previously in force relating to insurance against sickness, and introduces, for the first time, a general scheme of compulsory insurance against accidents.

(a) Insurance against Sickness.

Insurance against sickness is now made compulsory for all persons, irrespective of age or sex, whose earnings do not exceed £100 a year, or 6s. 8d. a day, and who are employed either temporarily or permanently in any industrial undertaking, including the railway,

THE SUPPLY AND TRAINING OF BOY SEAMEN.

FROM the Report of the Committee* appointed in July, 1906, to inquire as to the most practicable scheme for the supply and training of boy seamen for the Mercantile Marine, it appears that while there is no lack of boys willing to go to sea, it does not pay the majority of shipowners to take them in the present times of severe competition. Owing to this fact, the number of boys in the service has decreased from 18,303 in 1870 to 5,069 in 1905. These were apprenticed boys. Unindentured boys on merchant vessels amounted in 1891 to 1,906; in 1901 they had decreased to 1,384. The Boy Sailor Scheme, initiated under the Merchant Shipping Act of 1898, had for its object the increase of the number of British sailors in the merchant service in order to form a reserve for the Navy. It provided for State aid in the form of an allowance being paid the shipowner, which should not exceed one-fifth of the light dues paid by the ship. This scheme did not meet with the anticipated success, and a further scheme framed by the Admiralty in 1904 was also withdrawn, the views of shipowners not being regarded by the Admiralty as sufficiently favourable. At the present time the reserves for the use of the Navy which exist in the Royal Fleet Reserve, Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve are, in the opinion of the Admiralty, quite adequate, and in view of the work in the Navy becoming more and more of a highly skilled nature it is considered that the Mercantile Marine cannot form a large recruiting ground for the Navy. In this connection it may be noted that the number of men on the books of the ships of the Navy and at the Royal Marine divisions is now 128,000, as against 68,800 in 1891.

In the course of investigation the Committee came to the conclusion that a capitation grant of £25 would induce a large number of shipowners to take boys; but the Committee decided that the large expenditure necessary to make any such scheme a success would only be justified if it were found that the number of foreigners in the merchant service was so large as to be a matter for serious objection on national grounds.

In 1905 the total number of hands on vessels engaged in the home (including fishing) and foreign trades was 220,203 (excluding Lascars and Asiatics). Of these 180,492 were British and 39,711 were foreigners. The percentage of the foreigners was thus 18·03. In 1902 the percentage was 18·71, showing that the foreign element in the merchant service is not increasing. In 1901 it appears that one in 38 of the male population of the United Kingdom over 15 years of age belonged to the seafaring profession.

Having regard to the opinion of the Admiralty before mentioned, and also to the fact that although there is no lack of boys willing to go to sea, the existence of a large proportion of foreign sailors must be regarded as a constant element in the merchant service, the Committee do not feel justified in recommending any large scheme of State grants to shipowners. As, however, it would be a national advantage if merchant seamen were more thoroughly and systematically trained and if the scope for the employment of British subjects were extended, the Committee consider that encouragement and opportunity should be extended to boys desiring to go to sea.

They recommend, therefore, that assistance in the form of capitation grants of £20 for each boy should be extended to training ships and schools, the training to be under conditions approved by the Board of Trade. They consider that the grant should only be made in respect of those boys who actually make the sea service their profession, and should only become payable when the boys have passed one year in the training institution and one at sea. Shipowners, it is considered, will be more ready to take boys of good character trained under these conditions; and in this manner it is thought that 5,000 boys could be trained annually, provided that shipowners increased their demand to that extent. The

* Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the Supply and Training of Boy Seamen for the Mercantile Marine. Part I. Report Cd. 3722. Price 2d.

present training ships and schools, other than reformatory and industrial ships, have accommodation for over 2,000 boys, but are hampered for want of funds.

CO-OPERATIVE CATTLE INSURANCE SOCIETIES, 1903-6.

THE Table below is compiled from Returns furnished direct to the Labour Department by the societies concerned, supplemented in a few cases by particulars kindly supplied by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies.

The membership of these societies consists of small holders in agricultural districts who have combined to raise, by small periodical contributions, a common fund for the mutual insurance against loss by death of their cattle, sheep, pigs, &c. One-third of the societies are in Lincolnshire, the remainder being spread over sixteen other counties in England and Wales.

The societies are all registered under the Friendly Societies Act, but are distinguished from nearly all other societies registered under this Act in that the contributions of their members are legally recoverable; that the liability of members is not limited; and that the amount of the insurances is not limited by the Act, although in practice it is found that the insurances are for small amounts only.

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Number of Societies making returns ...	52	53	53	58
Total Membership ...	3,362	3,505	3,457	3,718
Receipts during year—				
Members' Contributions ...	1,284	1,369	1,457	1,758
Other Receipts ...	398	377	331	561
Total Receipts ...	1,682	1,746	1,788	2,319
Expenditure during year—				
Benefits to Members ...	1,267	1,375	1,242	1,760
Working Expenses ...	237	204	250	520
Total Expenditure ...	1,504	1,579	1,492	2,280
Total Funds at end of year...	7,043	7,210	7,491	7,899

CO-OPERATIVE WHOLESALE SOCIETIES.

Quarterly Returns of Sales.

RETURNS received from three Co-operative Wholesale Societies in the United Kingdom, for the third quarter of 1907, show total sales in their distributive departments amounting to £8,263,775, an increase of 9.1 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1906, and of 33.6 per cent. on the corresponding period of 1902 (*i.e.*, five years ago).

The sales and transfers from the manufacturing to the distributive departments of the English and Scottish Wholesale Societies amounted to £2,034,647, an increase of 16.3 per cent. on the third quarter of 1906, and of 65.5 per cent. on that of 1902.

Names of Societies and Nature of Business.	Sales.				
	In third quarter of			Percentage increase in 1907 as compared with	
	1907.	1906.	1902.	A year ago.	Five years ago.
	£	£	£		
ENGLISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	6,400,460†	5,840,324†	4,748,787§	9.6	34.8
Manufacturing " ...	1,433,985†	1,200,131†	777,710§	19.5	84.4
SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	1,858,218	1,734,974	1,433,508	7.1	29.6
Manufacturing " ...	571,606*	522,580*	431,006*	9.4	32.6
ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH WHOLESALE SOCIETIES' JOINT COMMITTEE:—					
Manufacturing Departments	29,056†	26,358†	20,462†	10.2	42.0
IRISH AGRICULTURAL WHOLESALE SOCIETY:—					
Distributive Departments ...	5,097	1,888	2,823	170.0	80.6
Totals—Distributive Depts. ...	8,263,775	7,577,186	6,285,118	9.1	33.6
Manufacturing " ...	2,034,647*	1,749,069*	1,229,178*	16.3	65.5
Grand Total ...	10,298,422	9,326,255	7,514,296	10.4	38.9

* Sales and transfers from productive to distributive departments. † 14 weeks. ‡ Estimated for 14 weeks.

EMPLOYMENT IN THE COLONIES.*

(Monthly report, compiled by the Emigrants' Information Office, 31, Broadway, Westminster, S.W., from the latest official and other reports, newspapers, etc.)

Canada.

The demand for labour is over for the season, and in parts of the Eastern Provinces the supply of labour is more than sufficient, partly owing to the arrival of large numbers of out of work mechanics and labourers from the United States of America in search of employment. No one, therefore, should emigrate to Canada in search of work during the winter. Persons wishing to go there should wait till April, but even then they should not start unless they go to take up engagements, or have enough money to keep them till they find employment.

Commonwealth of Australia.

New South Wales grants assisted passages to approved agriculturists and female servants on application to the Agent-General at 123, Cannon Street, E.C. The Queensland Government has further reduced the rates for nominated passages which are open to those who have friends or relations in the State, and is also now granting assisted passages to persons with a little money, and free passages to agricultural labourers introduced under contract, to wives and children of approved emigrants, and to domestic servants. There is a good demand throughout Australia for female servants, and for farm labourers, orchardists and others who are competent to work upon the land. In New South Wales there is a good demand for miners at the silver mines at Broken Hill; but at some of the copper mines in South Australia hands have been reduced owing to the fall in the price of copper. Western Australia grants reduced passages to approved emigrants, and offers them free grants of 160 acres each. First-class carpenters, bricklayers, masons, plasterers and blacksmiths are wanted in various districts of Australia. There is very little opening for clerks or shop assistants.

New Zealand.

Farmers and agricultural labourers with a capital of £25, and female servants with £2, are eligible for reduced passages at £10 to £12 a head. There is a good demand for these classes, especially for experienced milkers in dairy districts. The local supply of general labourers is as a rule quite sufficient. Artisans and factory hands and sawmillers have been well employed, with one or two exceptions, *e.g.*, men in the engineering trade at Wellington, which has been very dull; but the local supply is generally sufficient. There is, however, a demand at Auckland, Gisborne, Christchurch, Timaru and Dunedin, for women and girls in the boot or clothing factories, for hat and cap workers (girls) and dressmakers at Napier, for fitters and boiler-makers at Invercargill, and for carpenters at Napier.

South Africa.

Cape Colony.—Emigrants are warned against going to Cape Colony at the present time in search of work, as there is no demand for labour anywhere. The supply of men in the building trades exceeds the demand in Cape Town, Cradock, East London, Kimberley, Middleburg, Paarl, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown, Somerset East, Stellenbosch, Uitenhage, Victoria East, Wodehouse and Wynberg. There is an excess of men in the engineering trades at Beaconsfield, Cape Town, East London, Kimberley, Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage.

Natal.—Emigrants should avoid Natal at the present time, as many already there are unable to obtain work.

Transvaal.—Though the distress in Johannesburg and Pretoria is much less than it was, there is still no demand for any class of emigrant, and persons are warned against going to the Transvaal at the present time. The Johannesburg Municipality and other public bodies have in a large measure decreased the distress by employing white men, instead of natives, in the making of roads, the digging of trenches for pipe-

* Handbooks (with maps) on the different Colonies may be obtained from the Emigrants' Information Office, at a penny each, post free.

laying, and in various other ways. Just lately the authorities offered to employ 100 white men, in place of natives, on the Pietersburg line at £5 per month. The strike of printers has been settled by a compromise: the men agreeing to a reduction in their wages from 115s. to 110s. a week.

Orange River Colony.—There is no demand for any class of immigrant in the Orange River Colony, except for a few female servants, who may obtain reduced passages.

LABOUR ABROAD.

[NOTE.—The following reports include an abstract of such official information as is available with regard to the state of employment in foreign countries, in order to indicate, as far as possible, the fluctuations in employment in each country from period to period. The bases of the official statistics published in these countries are, however, not the same as those for the United Kingdom, and therefore the figures quoted below cannot be properly used with those on p. 353 to compare the actual level of employment in the United Kingdom with that in foreign countries. (For further information on the subject of the bases of the unemployment statistics of the various countries, see p. 104 of Cd. 2337.)]

FRANCE.*

Employment in October.—Employment in the building and allied trades and in the metal trades continued good; it declined, however, in the automobile trade, both at Paris and in the provinces. Employment in the textile trades was, on the whole, satisfactory in the Nord and Est, and improved slightly in the smaller centres of the Maine-et-Loire and Deux-Sèvres. Silk workers at St. Etienne again reported much slackness among ribbon and velvet weavers, but at Lyons power-loom weavers were busy, and the improvement in the smaller workshops continued; employment in the workshops near the latter town was, however, slack. Employment in the garment making trades (especially at Paris) and in the printing trades showed an improvement. Coachbuilders at Paris were feeling the effects of the slackness in the automobile trade. A high proportion of leather dressers were out of work in the Tarn, Aveyron and Ardèche departments. Employment with vineyard workers in the South of France improved in many districts; work was interrupted by floods in the departments of Aude and Hérault, where there was consequently much unemployment. While awaiting engagements for winter work, woodcutters were employed in sowing and in potato and beetroot lifting, but there was not enough to give employment to all. Employment with Paris gardeners showed a slight decline.

Returns showing the number of members unemployed in October were received by the French Labour Department from 994 Trade Unions, with an aggregate membership of 200,620. Excluding returns from the miners' Unions in the Pas-de-Calais department, 8.0 per cent. of the members were described as unemployed, as compared with 6.5 per cent. in the preceding month, and 7.5 per cent. in October, 1906.

Coal Mining in October.—The average number of days per week worked by persons employed underground in coal mines in France during October was 5.98, as compared with 5.92 in the previous month, and 6.00 in October, 1906. Taking surface and underground workers together, 87.85 per cent. worked full time (six days or over per week) and 11.61 per cent. from five to six days. In the previous month the corresponding percentages were 82.32 and 17.47, and in October, 1906, 94.72 and 5.28 respectively.

Labour Disputes in October.—Sixty-eight disputes were reported to the French Labour Department as having begun in October, compared with 57 in the previous month and 107 in October, 1906. In 66 of the new disputes 5,909 workpeople took part, as compared with 7,095 who took part in 52 of the September disputes and 15,271 who took part in 99 of the disputes in October, 1906. The groups of trades in which the largest number of disputes occurred were the textile (16), transport and warehousing (15), building (12), and metal (9). Of 69 new and old disputes of which the results were reported, 15 terminated in favour of the

workpeople, 33 in favour of the employers, and 21 were compromised.

Conciliation and Arbitration in October.—Three instances of recourse to the law on conciliation and arbitration were reported to the French Labour Department as having occurred in October. A committee of conciliation was formed in one of the three cases, and an agreement was arrived at on certain points, which was subsequently adopted as part of the final settlement of the dispute.

GERMANY.

Employment in October.*—There was some falling off in the demand for labour, but in general, and especially in the larger industries, employment was about the same as in September. In certain branches of the textile trades (cloth weaving at Aachen, manufacture of woollen goods in Silesia, and cotton manufacture) employment was not so good, partly owing to the prices of raw material. In certain localities some decline was reported in the building trades and also in the majority of the wood-working trades; in the former case it was partly due to seasonal causes. In the coal mining industry the demand for workpeople again exceeded the supply. The majority of the establishments in the metal and engineering trades were fully employed, and employment in the electrical trades (except for certain branches in Berlin) and in the chemical trades continued good. There was a decline in employment in the clothing trades.

Strike in the Timber Trade at Danzig.—A despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Consul at Danzig, dated November 2nd, reported a strike of 900 workpeople employed in timber yards and saw mills in that town. The strikers demanded an increase of 15 per cent. in wages, their average wage before the strike being 3s. 11d. a day. A later despatch, of November 26th, stated that the strike had ended, the saw mill hands having been granted a small advance in wages.

HOLLAND.†

Employment in October.—Except in a few districts employment was unsatisfactory in the building trades. In the larger metal and engineering establishments employment continued satisfactory on the whole, but with shipbuilders it was less brisk than in September. In the textile trades employment continued slack; in garment making (with the exception of tailoring, which continued slack) an improvement was reported; with boot and shoe makers and saddlers it varied considerably according to locality. On the whole employment in the woodworking trades showed no improvement, but with furniture makers it was good. In the printing trades, with few exceptions, it was satisfactory. Persons engaged in bulb culture continued busy. With cocoa and chocolate makers employment was good; in the confectionery trades it was satisfactory; with margarine makers it varied greatly according to locality; in the tobacco trades it was good.

Labour Disputes in October.—Fifteen strikes, directly affecting 353 workpeople, were reported as having commenced in October. Three of the strikes were in the building trades, and 2 each in the metal, printing and brickmaking trades. Two lock-outs, one in the metal trades and the other in the tobacco trades, also commenced in October. Nine of the strikes came to an end during the month, and in addition 2 which began in September also came to an end. The results of 10 of the strikes which ended in October were known; one of these terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 6 terminated in favour of the employers, while 3 were compromised. Neither of the lock-outs which began in October came to an end during the month, but 2 which began in September terminated in October, a compromise being effected in each case.

* Reichs-Arbeitsblatt (Journal of the German Labour Department), November, 1907.

† Maandschrift van het Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office).

* Bulletin de l'Office du Travail (Journal of the French Labour Department)

BELGIUM.*

Employment in October.—According to Returns made to the Belgian Labour Department, 1.5 per cent. of the 41,928 members of 179 Trade Unions reporting were unemployed towards the latter part of the month, as compared with 1.4 per cent. in the previous month and 1.9 per cent. in October, 1906. These figures do not include particulars relating to miners, home workers, or agricultural labourers. (See also note under "Labour Abroad," on p. 361).

Labour Disputes in October.—Fifteen strikes, involving approximately 1,960 workpeople (1,400 directly and 560 indirectly), were reported to the Belgian Labour Department as having begun in October. In addition to these, 4 strikes which commenced in previous months were in progress during October. The bulk of the workpeople directly affected by these 19 disputes were in the metal, textile, leather, and tobacco trades. The termination of 9 disputes was reported. Of these, 2 (affecting 180 persons) terminated in favour of the workpeople, and 7 (affecting 600 persons) in favour of the employers.

NORWAY.†

Employment in October.—Of 17,947 members of Trade Unions forwarding returns to the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, 21.7, or 1.2 per cent., were described as unemployed at the end of October. The figures for October and September, 1907, and for October, 1906, for certain Unions which made returns for each of these months are given for comparison. (As regards these figures see note under "Labour Abroad" on p. 361.)

Group of Trades.	Membership.			Percentage Unemployed at end of		
	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.	Oct., 1907.	Sept., 1907.	Oct., 1906.
Metal Workers and Moulders	5,946	5,940	5,013	0.8	0.9	0.9
Carpenters, &c.	786	791	851	1.8	0.9	1.9
Cabinet Makers	335	385	292	0.6	...	0.3
Painters	600	600	400	12.2	8.5	13.3
Printers	1,242	1,245	1,074	1.9	3.1	0.9
Wood Pulp and Paper Makers	1,149	1,163	967	...	...	...
Sawyers and Planers	516	480	319	1.7	...	9.7
Bakers	185	158	190	9.2	10.1	24.7
Tinned Goods (Food Preparation)	277	271	234	0.4	...	5.1
Boot and Shoemakers	233	228	169	0.9	...	...
Timber-boom Labourers	359	356	323	...	...	...
Total	11,628	11,557	9,832	1.6	1.4	2.2

UNITED STATES.

Obligation of Fulfilling Conditions of Collective Labour Agreements: Legal Decision.—On October 20th an injunction was made permanent by the Federal Circuit Court of Cincinnati, Ohio, restraining the officers and members of the International Printing Pressmen's and Assistants' Union from engaging in strikes and boycotts, and prohibiting them from levying assessments for strike purposes, and restraining the organisers from organising strikes against the members of the United Typothetae—an employers' association in the printing trade with which the Union has an agreement. This decision imposes on a Trade Union, whose officers have signed an agreement with an industrial employer, the obligation of fulfilling that agreement.

Strike of Telegraph Operators.—A despatch from H.M. Acting Consul-General at New York reports the termination, after a duration of nearly four months, of the strike of Trade Union telegraph operators employed by the Western Union and Commercial Telegraph Companies. An account of this dispute was given in the GAZETTE for August, p. 233. The strike was abandoned by the operators, the companies refusing to make any compromise, or in any manner to meet them as a body, to make any advance in wages, or to recognise the Union. A very small percentage of the strikers will be taken back, as their places have been largely filled by other employees. The present employees are stated to be all non-Union men.

* *Revue du Travail* (Journal of the Belgian Labour Department), November 30th, 1907.
† Information supplied by the Norwegian Central Bureau of Statistics, based on a despatch from H.M. Ambassador at Washington.

REPORTS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN NOVEMBER.

COAL MINING.

(Based on 499 Returns—450 from Employers, 36 from Trade Unions, and 13 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the coal mining industry continued very good during the four weeks ended November 23rd; it showed a slight decline compared with a month ago, but was somewhat better than a year ago.

Returns relating to 1,391 pits employing 641,064 workpeople show that the average number of days* worked per week during the four weeks ended November 23rd, 1907, was 5.60, as compared with 5.64 in the previous month, and 5.50 in November, 1906.

Of the 641,064 workpeople covered by the Returns, 592,613 (or 92.4 per cent.) were employed at pits working 20 or more days during the four weeks ended November 23rd, 1907, and of these 502,076 (or 78.3 per cent. of the whole) worked 22 days or more.

The highest average number of days worked per week in November was in South Wales and Monmouthshire (5.88), and the lowest in West Scotland (5.14).

Compared with a month ago employment on the whole showed a slight decline, the decrease in average number of days worked being greatest in Cumberland (0.24), and in West Yorkshire (0.18). Compared with a year ago there was an improvement in the Midland Counties and in West Yorkshire, ranging from 0.25 in Salop, Worcester and Warwick, to 0.43 in Derbyshire. In Scotland there was a decline of 0.22.

In the following Table the average time worked by the pits is shown for the three periods specified:—

Districts.	No. of Workpeople employed in Nov., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
		Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
ENGLAND & WALES.						
Northumberland ...	45,999	5.46	5.46	5.40	...	+ .06
Durham ...	117,024	5.52	5.53	5.55	...	- .01 - .03
Cumberland ...	7,472	5.47	5.71	5.57	...	- .24 - .10
South Yorkshire ...	69,587	5.85	5.82	5.78	...	+ .03 + .07
West Yorkshire ...	22,236	5.36	5.54	5.36	...	- .18 + .13
Lancashire and Cheshire	57,548	5.51	5.56	5.36	...	- .05 + .35
Derbyshire ...	39,073	5.50	5.62	5.07	...	- .12 + .43
Nottingham and Leicester	31,821	5.29	5.35	4.92	...	- .06 + .37
Staffordshire ...	29,652	5.68	5.69	5.40	...	- .01 + .28
Warwick, Worcester, and Salop ...	12,770	5.60	5.76	5.35	...	- .16 + .25
Gloucester and Somerset	8,143	5.60	5.64	5.35	...	- .04 + .25
North Wales ...	11,534	5.80	5.86	5.81	...	- .06 - .01
South Wales and Mon. ...	134,798	5.88	5.92	5.77	...	- .04 + .11
ENGLAND AND WALES	587,857	5.63	5.67	5.50		- .04 + .13
SCOTLAND.						
West Scotland ...	27,210	5.14	5.12	5.39	...	+ .02 - .25
The Lothians ...	5,729	5.46	5.43	5.72	...	+ .03 - .26
Fife ...	19,844	5.44	5.59	5.60	...	- .15 - .16
SCOTLAND	52,783	5.29	5.33	5.51		- .04 - .22
IRELAND	624	5.01	5.26	5.32		- .25 - .31
United Kingdom	641,064	5.60	5.64	5.50		- .04 + .10

The following Table shows the numbers employed and the average number of days worked per week, according to the principal kind of coal produced at the pits at which the workpeople were employed. At pits employing 212,679 workpeople it was not found possible to state which class of coal predominated, and they are entered in the Table under the heading "mixed." Compared with a month ago there was a slight decline at pits producing all classes of coal. The decline was most marked at pits producing house coal. Compared

* The figures in this article only show the number of days (short days being counted as fractions of a day) on which coal was hewn and wound at the collieries included in the returns received. It is not necessarily implied that all the persons employed at these collieries worked the whole number of days.

with a year ago there was an improvement in all classes of pits except coking. The improvement was greatest in pits producing anthracite coal.

Description of Coal.	No. of Workpeople employed in Nov., 1907, at the Collieries included in the Table.	Average number of days worked per week by the Collieries in Four Weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
		Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	A m'nth ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Anthracite ...	7,049	5.78	5.82	5.43	...	- .04 + .35
Coking ...	33,072	5.59	5.67	5.68	...	- .08 - .09
Gas ...	40,216	5.52	5.53	5.44	...	- .01 + .08
House ...	82,735	5.34	5.46	5.18	...	- .12 + .16
Manufacturing and Steam	254,773	5.69	5.73	5.61	...	- .01 + .08
Mixed ...	212,679	5.61	5.62	5.48	...	- .01 + .13
All Descriptions	641,064	5.60	5.64	5.50		- .04 + .10

The Exports of coal, coke, and manufactured fuel in November, 1907, amounted to 5,828,127 tons, or 340,373 tons less than in October, 1907, but 860,130 tons more than in November, 1906.

IRON, SHALE, AND OTHER MINING AND QUARRYING.

(Based on 81 Returns—66 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 3 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good in iron mines, but showed a slight decline as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In shale mines it was good, and slightly better than a month ago and a year ago.

Employment continued good in tin, copper, and lead mines. It was fair on the whole in quarries, but showed some decline as compared with a month ago.

Mining.

Iron Mining.—During the four weeks ended November 23rd the average number of days worked per week by all mines and open works included in the Returns was 5.78, as compared with 5.82 a month ago and 5.89 a year ago.

Districts.	No. employed in Nov., 1907, at the Mines included in the Returns.	Average Number of Days worked per week by Mines in 4 weeks ended			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
		Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Oct. 26th, 1907.	Nov. 24th, 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Cleveland ...	7,547	5.86	5.84	5.99	...	+ 0.02 - 0.13
Cumberland and Lancashire	5,224	5.92	5.18	5.92	...	+ 0.04 ...
Scotland ...	1,017	4.33	5.49	5.76	...	- 1.16 - 1.43
Other Districts ...	2,578	5.87	5.75	5.62	...	+ 0.12 + 0.25
All Districts	16,366	5.78	5.82	5.89		- 0.04 - 0.11

Of the 16,366 workpeople covered by the Returns 14,610 (or 89.3 per cent.) worked 22 or more days during the four weeks ended November 23rd, as compared with 87.8 per cent. a month ago, and 95.4 per cent. a year ago.

Shale Mining.—At the mines respecting which Returns have been received, 3,220 workpeople were employed during the four weeks ended November 23rd, as compared with 3,203 in the previous month, and 3,114 a year ago. The average number of days worked per week by the mines included in the Returns in the four weeks ended November 23rd was 5.75, as compared with 5.73 a month ago and 5.53 a year ago.

Tin and Copper Mining.—Employment continued good in Cornwall.
Lead Mining.—Employment was good in North Wales and in Weardale.

Quarrying.

Slate.—Employment was very slack in North Wales, and short time was worked in the Festiniog and Penrhyn districts.

Granite.—Short time was worked in Aberdeenshire it was slack. It was dull on Dartmoor; moderate in the Penryn district.

Limestone.—Employment continued good in Weardale. In North Wales it was interrupted by wet weather; employment was quiet in the Plymouth district. In Cumberland it was bad, and worse than a month ago. In the Somerset blue lias quarries it was bad.

Other Stone.—Employment was good with grindstone makers in the Barnsley district. It continued bad, with short time, in Forfarshire. It was good, and better than a month ago, in the Clee Hill road-material quarries. Employment was slack both in the Bath stone quarries and in the Gloucestershire pennant stone quarries. In the Gateshead district it was moderate. In the Derbyshire chert quarries employment was good.

Sett-making.—Employment continued bad in Aberdeenshire. It was fair on the whole in North Wales and in the Glasgow district. It was regular at Airdrie. In the Clee Hill district it was fair.

China Clay.—Employment continued good in the St. Austell and Lee Moor districts.

PIG IRON INDUSTRY.

(Based on 115 Returns—108 from Employers, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during November, 1907, was fairly good. It was not so good as either a month ago or a year ago.

Returns relating to the works of 108 ironmasters, employing over 24,000 workpeople, show that the total number of furnaces in blast at the end of November was 330, as compared with 335 in October, 1907, and 342 in November, 1906. During November 3 furnaces were re-lit, all in Lanarkshire, and 8 were either damped down or blown out (2 in Cumberland, 2 in Staffordshire and 1 each in Cleveland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire).

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Districts.	Number of Furnaces, included in the Returns, in Blast at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	A month ago.	A year ago.
ENGLAND & WALES—					
Cleveland ...	85	86	89	...	- 1 - 4
Cumberland & Lancs.	30	33	39	...	- 3 - 9
S. and S.W. Yorks ...	15	16	16	...	- 1 - 1
Derby & Nottingham	42	43	39	...	- 1 + 3
Leicester, Lincoln, and Northampton	26	26	28	...	- 2
Stafford & Worcester	36	38	35	...	- 2 + 1
S. Wales & Monmouth	17	17	16	...	+ 1
Other districts ...	8	8	7	...	+ 1
England & Wales	239	267	269		- 8 - 10
Scotland	71	68	73		+ 3 - 2
Total	330	335	342		- 5 - 12

The Imports of iron ore in November, 1907, amounted to 549,263 tons, or 52,234 tons less than in October, 1907, and 43,681 tons more than in November, 1906.

The Exports of pig iron from the United Kingdom in November, 1907, amounted to 136,859 tons, or 26,008 tons less than in October, 1907, and 45,187 tons less than in November, 1906.

TINPLATE WORKS AND STEEL SHEET MILLS.

(Based on 57 Returns—55 from Employers, 1 from a Trade Union, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT in this industry during November continued good, and was rather better than a year ago. The supply of and demand for labour continued about equal.

At the works covered by the Returns, 392 tinplate and 55 sheet mills were working at the end of November, as compared with 392 and 52 respectively in October, and 383 and 58 respectively a year ago.

The following Table gives particulars of the numbers of tinsplate and sheet mills reported to the Department as working at the end of October and November, 1907, and November, 1906. The works to which these Returns relate are chiefly in South Wales, Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire, and employ about 22,300 workpeople:—

	November, 1907.		October, 1907.		November, 1906.	
	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.	Number of Works open.*	Number of Mills in operation.
Tinsplate Mills ...	75	392	75	392	74	383
Sheet Mills ...	8	55	9	52	9	58
Total ...	83	447	84	444	83	441

Exports.—The Table below shows the exports of tinsplates and tinned sheets, and of black plates for tinning, for the months stated:—

	Tons.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Tinned Plates and Tinned Sheets.</i>						
To United States ...	2,490	6,265	6,038	— 3,775	— 3,548	— 627
British East Indies ...	6,861	4,293	5,995	+ 2,603	+ 866	— 697
Germany ...	3,959	3,445	4,656	+ 554	— 697	— 49
France ...	1,794	1,693	1,655	+ 11	+ 49	— 585
Netherlands ...	2,737	2,872	3,322	— 135	— 585	+ 1,348
Other Countries ...	17,436	19,487	16,088	— 2,051	+ 1,348	— 2,887
Total ...	38,227	38,015	37,704	— 2,788	— 2,887	— 387
<i>Black Plates for Tinning.</i>						
Total ...	3,229	6,882	6,616	— 1,653	— 387	—

IRON AND STEEL WORKS.

(Based on 224 Returns—200 from Employers, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent; 13 from Trade Unions; and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT at iron and steel works showed a further decline, and was worse than a year ago.

The aggregate number of shifts worked during the week ended November 23rd, 1907, by all the workpeople included in the Returns was about 505,100, as compared with 524,300 a month ago, and 531,100 a year ago.

The volume of employment (*i.e.*, number employed multiplied by the number of shifts worked) during the week ended November 23rd, 1907, at the 200 iron and steel works from which Returns were received, was 3·7 per cent. less than in the week ended October 26th, 1907, and 4·9 per cent. less than a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed at ironworks remained about the same as a month ago and a year ago, but at steelworks the number employed was 4·1 per cent. less than in October, and 5·7 per cent. less than in November, 1906. There was a large decrease in the number of workpeople employed in the Cumberland, Lancashire and Cheshire district, and in Scotland, as compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the other districts there was, on the whole, a slight net increase in the number employed as compared with a month ago; but as compared with a year ago the number of workpeople employed showed a large decrease in Cleveland, and in Northumberland and Durham.

The average number of shifts worked per man per week remained about the same as both a month ago and a year ago at steel works, but was slightly lower at iron works. At puddling forges the average number of shifts worked per man was 0·26 per week lower than in October, and 0·20 lower than a year ago.

* It will be understood that in addition to the works returned as giving full or partial employment, a certain number of tinsplate works were wholly idle at each of the dates to which the Returns relate, but the figures quoted are believed to give approximately the total number of works and mills actually in operation.

Departments.	Number of Workpeople employed by firms making Returns.				Average Number of Shifts worked per man.				
	In week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with		In week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) as compared with	
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.			
IRON:									
Puddling Forges ...	10,773	+ 102	+ 86	4·89	- 0·26	- 0·20			
Rolling Mills ...	4,503	- 107	- 26	4·98	- 0·06	- 0·05			
Forging ...	487	+ 39	+ 12	5·40	- 0·06	- 0·08			
Founding ...	1,936	+ 5	+ 105	5·95	- 0·04	- 0·04			
Other Departments ...	3,266	- 9	+ 20	5·45	+ 0·09	- 0·06			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	1,685	- 46	+ 105	5·57	+ 0·01	- 0·02			
Total, Iron ...	20,070	- 18	+ 92	5·11	- 0·16	- 0·13			
STEEL:									
Open Hearth Melting Furnaces ...	8,367	- 194	- 61	5·86	+ 0·01	- 0·02			
Crucible Furnaces ...	594	+ 14	+ 27	5·42	- 0·04	- 0·13			
Bessemer Converters ...	1,346	- 177	- 545	4·69	- 0·25	- 0·42			
Rolling Mills ...	13,921	- 1,299	- 1,734	5·24	- 0·12	- 0·03			
Forging and Pressing ...	2,813	+ 66	- 28	5·68	- 0·01	+ 0·10			
Founding ...	7,618	- 68	- 249	5·90	+ 0·01	- 0·02			
Other Departments ...	6,618	- 138	+ 58	5·85	...	+ 0·03			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	8,089	- 325	- 429	5·95	+ 0·05	+ 0·01			
Total, Steel ...	49,396	- 2,118	- 2,961	5·68	- 0·02	+ 0·01			
IRON OR STEEL (not distinguished):									
Rolling Mills ...	11,337	+ 74	+ 205	5·12	- 0·13	- 0·20			
Forging and Pressing ...	760	- 81	+ 27	5·65	- 0·06	+ 0·37			
Founding ...	753	+ 14	- 11	5·90	+ 0·07	- 0·04			
Other Departments ...	3,231	- 9	+ 23	5·16	+ 0·04	- 0·06			
Mechanics, Labourers ...	6,880	- 52	- 316	5·63	- 0·01	- 0·18			
Total, Iron or Steel (not distinguished) ...	22,961	- 54	- 483	5·36	- 0·11	- 0·20			
Grand Total ...									
Total ...	92,427	- 2,187	- 3,351	5·46	- 0·08	- 0·09			
Districts.									
Northumberland & Durham ...	11,669	+ 145	- 566	5·43	- 0·06	- 0·19			
Cleveland ...	6,613	+ 115	- 891	5·77	+ 0·16	+ 0·31			
Sheffield and Rotherham ...	16,810	+ 33	- 240	5·64	- 0·03	- 0·03			
Leeds, Bradford and other Yorkshire Towns ...	4,668	+ 4	+ 95	5·53	- 0·10	- 0·09			
Cumberland, Lancs. & Ches. ...	10,571	- 1,430	- 1,268	5·13	- 0·17	- 0·13			
Staffordshire ...	10,560	- 11	+ 273	5·45	- 0·02	- 0·04			
Other Midland Counties ...	5,295	+ 44	+ 150	5·46	- 0·08	- 0·01			
Wales and Monmouth ...	10,416	+ 163	+ 279	5·53	- 0·10	- 0·08			
Total, England and Wales ...	76,542	- 1,025	- 1,688	5·49	- 0·05	- 0·04			
Scotland ...	15,885	- 1,162	- 1,663	5·35	- 0·20	- 0·25			
Total ...	92,427	- 2,187	- 3,351	5·46	- 0·08	- 0·09			

In Cleveland there was an increase of 0·16 of a shift as compared with a month ago and of 0·31 of a shift as compared with a year ago; but every other district showed some decline in the average number of shifts worked compared with either period. This decline was greatest in Scotland, where it amounted to 0·20 of a shift per man per week as compared with a month ago, and 0·25 of a shift as compared with a year ago.

The Imports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof during November, 1907, amounted to 91,036 tons, or 9,532 tons less than in October, 1907, but 15,692 tons more than in November, 1906.

The Exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof (excluding pig and puddled iron, and tinned plates and black plates for tinning) during November, 1907, amounted to 211,229 tons, or 29,168 tons less than in October, 1907, and 47,375 tons less than in November, 1906.

ENGINEERING TRADES.

(Based on 1,014 Returns—10 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 964 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 40 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued fair on the whole, but was not so good as a month ago. It was worse than a year ago.

The following Table gives a summary of Returns received from Trade Unions having a membership of 163,982, and shows that at the end of November the percentage unemployed was 4·7 per cent., as compared with 4·5 per cent. a month ago and 3·5 per cent. a year ago. As compared with a month ago there was an improvement in employment in the London, South Coast, and Bristol and South Wales districts; all other districts showed some decline, which was most marked in the Birmingham, North-East Coast, and West Riding districts. As compared with a year ago the South

Wales and Bristol, Hull, and South Coast districts showed some improvement; in all other districts there was a decline, which was most noticeable in the North-East Coast, West Riding, Birmingham, and Belfast and Dublin districts.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Nov., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed for Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
		Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
North-East Coast ...	15,790	9·9	8·8	6·8	+ 1·1	+ 3·1
Manchester and Liverpool District ...	19,673	4·4	3·9	2·7	+ 0·5	+ 1·7
Oldham, Bolton, and Blackburn District ...	13,363	3·3	2·8	2·0	+ 0·5	+ 1·3
West Riding Towns ...	13,494	5·8	4·8	2·9	+ 2·9	+ 2·9
Hull and Lincolnshire District ...	3,055	2·7	2·5	3·1	+ 0·2	- 0·4
Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Coventry District ...	7,812	4·9	3·3	2·7	+ 1·6	+ 2·2
Nottingham and Leicester District ...	4,270	4·3	3·5	2·8	+ 0·8	+ 1·5
London and Neighbouring District ...	12,203	5·3	5·5	4·3	- 0·2	+ 1·0
South Coast ...	4,400	1·7	2·1	2·2	- 0·4	- 0·5
South Wales and Bristol District ...	6,470	2·3	3·6	3·1	- 1·3	- 0·8
Glasgow and District ...	16,213	6·1	5·9	5·3	+ 0·2	+ 0·8
East of Scotland ...	4,003	5·9	5·1	4·0	+ 0·8	+ 1·9
Belfast and Dublin ...	2,899	7·9	4·7	4·7	+ 0·5	+ 3·2
Other Districts ...	6,251	3·3	3·1	2·0	+ 0·2	+ 1·3
United Kingdom (including certain Unions for which District figures are not available) ...	163,982	4·7	4·5	3·5	+ 0·2	+ 1·2

On the North-East Coast employment showed a further decline. On the Tyne generally employment was dull with engineers, and worse than a month ago. In the railway works, however, it was fair; and at electrical and turbine shops it was fairly good. Overtime was continued at Wallsend, Howdon, and Jarrow. On the Wear employment continued bad, and at Sunderland there were a large number of men out of employment. At Darlington employment with engineers was good, and rather better than last month; at Middlesbrough and Stockton it was moderate; at Hartlepool it was bad. With patternmakers it was dull generally. With ironfounders employment was generally dull, but at Newcastle, Darlington and Wallsend it was good; and at Middlesbrough improving. With brassmoulders it was fair on the Tyne and Tees, and slack at Sunderland and Hartlepool.

In Lancashire employment with textile machinery engineers continued good, a large amount of overtime being worked. In general engineering shops employment was moderate. At Manchester and Liverpool a decline was reported. With boilermakers employment generally was moderate. With ironfounders it was good at Manchester and Salford, and fair at Liverpool. With brassfounders at Liverpool employment was bad, and worse than a month ago.

In the West Riding employment was fair on the whole. At Bradford, Huddersfield, Leeds, and Keighley it was good, and overtime was reported. At Sheffield employment was generally dull. With patternmakers it continued slack generally. With boilermakers it was moderate. In the Hull and Lincolnshire district employment declined somewhat, and was worse than a year ago; with brassfounders at Hull it was bad.

In the Birmingham and Wolverhampton district employment declined generally, and was worse than a year ago. With engineers it was moderate; with ironfounders it was fairly good; and with pattern makers it was quiet. A further decline is reported in the motor industry, and short time is still being worked in the cycle trade.

At Derby employment continued quiet in general engineering, but it was good in the railway shops, with considerable overtime. At Nottingham employment was very good with lace machinery builders; in general engineering shops it was fairly good. It was improving with patternmakers, but it continued quiet with moulders and slack with brassfounders. At Leicester and Loughborough employment continued to decline with general engineers; with shoe-machinery makers at Leicester it was good.

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

In London employment continued dull, and was worse than a year ago.

At the Royal Dockyards employment remained fairly good. At Southampton it continued good with marine engine makers, and moderate with boilermakers. In the South Wales and Bristol district employment was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. At Swindon employment continued good.

In the Glasgow district employment was moderate, except at Greenock where it continued slack. With iron, steel, and brass dressers it was worse than a month ago; with brass finishers it was good. At Edinburgh employment was bad; at Falkirk it was also bad, with continued short time. At Dundee it was good on the whole, but with ironmoulders a slight decline was reported. At Aberdeen employment was fair with ironmoulders, but in other branches it continued to decline.

At Belfast employment was dull, and the strike of the patternmakers caused an increase in the number of unemployed generally. At Dublin and Cork employment continued dull.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of the Imports and Exports of machinery for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
<i>Imports:</i>					
Steam Engines ...	£ 4,756	£ 6,477	£ 4,850	- £ 1,721	- £ 94
Other Machinery (including Electrical) ...	390,545	426,280	402,452	- 35,735	- 11,917
<i>Exports:</i>					
Steam Engines ...	663,976	814,072	606,862	- 150,096	+ 57,114
Other Machinery (including Electrical) ...	2,140,423	2,279,235	1,824,698	- 138,812	+ 315,725

SHIPBUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 364 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 340 from Trade Unions and their Branches, and 17 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was slack, especially on the North-East Coast, and worse than a month ago. The comparison with November, 1906, is affected by the labour disputes which took place at this time last year.

Branches of Trade Unions with 58,684 members had 7,494 (or 12·8 per cent.) unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 11·6 per cent. at the end of October, and 13·6 per cent. at the end of November, 1906.

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago, there was a heavy decline on the Tyne and Wear, and a great improvement at the Bristol Channel ports and on the Mersey. On the Clyde and the Tees there was considerable improvement compared with a year ago, when labour disputes were in progress.

District.	No. of Members* at end of Nov., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage for Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
		Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Tyne and Blyth ...	10,378	16·4	12·7	7·3	+ 3·7	+ 9·1
Wear ...	5,152	31·7	22·4	5·6	+ 9·3	+ 26·1
Tees and Hartlepool ...	5,120	14·4	12·0	20·7	+ 2·4	- 6·3
Humber ...	2,846	11·1	10·1	8·6	+ 2·0	+ 2·5
Thames and Medway ...	4,442	12·2	9·1	10·8	+ 3·1	+ 1·4
South Coast ...	3,550	2·7	3·7	3·7	- 1·0	- 1·0
Bristol Channel Ports ...	2,685	6·7	18·2	22·0	- 11·5	- 15·3
Mersey ...	3,820	5·0	11·9	23·3	- 6·9	- 18·3
Clyde ...	11,955	12·7	11·1	21·1	+ 1·6	- 8·4
Dundee, Leith and Aberdeen ...	2,464	12·6	13·3	12·4	- 0·7	+ 0·2
Belfast ...	2,902	3·7	3·3	9·1	+ 0·2	- 5·4
Other Districts ...	2,923	4·8	5·8	11·4	- 1·0	- 6·6
United Kingdom ...	58,684	12·8	11·6	13·6	+ 1·2	- 0·8

On the Tyne and Wear employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago, except at Newcastle, where it was fairly good, with some overtime. On the Tees it was dull, and worse than a month ago; the comparison with a year ago is affected

* Exclusive of Superannuated Members.

by a dispute. On the Humber employment was dull generally, but fair with shipwrights at Hull.

On the Thames employment remained slack, and was worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Southampton it was good on repairs, moderate on yachtwork. At the Royal Dockyards it continued good. At the Bristol Channel ports it was fair on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago. On the Mersey employment with shipwrights remained dull; with shipbuilders it was good upon repairs: on the whole it was much better than a month ago and a year ago.

On the Clyde employment was slack, and worse than a month ago, with shipbuilders; with shipwrights it was good at Port Glasgow, Dumbarton and Renfrew, but elsewhere dull. Comparison with a year ago is affected by the strike in October and November, 1906. At Leith and Aberdeen employment was slack; at Dundee it was good, and better than a month ago.

At Belfast employment was fairly good, and better than a year ago. With shipwrights at Yarmouth and Lowestoft it remained good.

MISCELLANEOUS METAL TRADES.

(Based on 97 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 66 from Trade Unions, and 29 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT during November was fair on the whole. It was better than a month ago, but not quite so good as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 15,880 had 2.5 per cent. out of work at the end of November, as compared with 3.0 per cent. in October, and 2.3 per cent. in November, 1906.

Brasswork, Bedsteads, etc.—Employment at Birmingham was fair with brassworkers, bad with bedstead makers, the majority working short time. It was quiet at Wolverhampton, Plymouth and Exeter; moderate at Leeds; fair at Manchester, Nottingham and Doncaster; and good at Bolton.

Nuts, Bolts, Nails, etc.—At Blackheath and Halesowen employment continued good with bolt and rivet makers. With nut and bolt makers at Birmingham it was fair; and at Darlaston it was good. With shoe-rivet, wire nail, and cut nail makers at Birmingham it was fair. With nut and bolt makers in South Wales employment was slack, and worse than a month ago.

Wire.—Employment continued good generally, with some overtime.

Locks, Keys and General Hardware.—Employment in the lock and latch trade at Wolverhampton and Willenhall continued bad, with much short time. In the hollow-ware trade it was quiet at Wolverhampton, moderate at West Bromwich, and good at Bilston. The galvanised hollow-ware trade was fairly good in the Midland towns.

Stoves, Grates, etc.—At Rotherham and at Leeds employment continued quiet, with short time; at Falkirk and Glasgow it was fair, and better than a month ago; and at Bolton and Bury it was good.

Cutlery, Tools, etc.—In the Sheffield district employment was good with edge tool grinders, table blade forgers and strikers, sawmakers and grinders, and filemakers; fair with other tool makers. At Birmingham it continued fair in the edge tool trade. At Redditch in the needle trade it was generally fair, and with fish-hook makers it was good.

Tubes.—Employment in South Wales was good, but not so good as a month ago; it was fair in South Staffordshire and at Birmingham.

Chains, Anchors, Springs, etc.—At Cradley Heath employment was bad with cable chain-makers and strikers, and with block chain-makers and anchor-smiths. It continued quiet with railway spring fitters and vicemen at Sheffield; with spring and axle makers at Birmingham and West Bromwich employment continued fair. With anchor-smiths on the Wear it was bad.

Sheet Metal, etc.—With sheet metal workers (including braziers and tinsplate workers) it was fair generally, and good in Lancashire and in the Dudley and Wolverhampton district. It was, however, moderate in the

Glasgow and West of Scotland district, and rather worse than last year; at Edinburgh it was dull.

Gold, Silver, Britannia Metal, etc.—In London employment was fair with goldsmiths and jewellers; the same as a month ago but better than a year ago. With silver workers it was also fair. At Birmingham it was good with jewellers and Britannia metal workers; and fair but declining with silversmiths and electroplaters. With silversmiths at Sheffield employment declined, and was dull, with much short time. Employment in the watch trade at Coventry was quiet.

Farriers.—Employment continued fair generally, quiet in London.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Nov., 1907.		Oct., 1907.		Nov., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in November, 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—								
Cutlery	16,886	16,069	9,426	817	7,460	+ 817	+ 7,460	
Hardware	95,591	92,428	79,274	3,165	16,317	+ 3,165	+ 16,317	
Exports:—								
Cutlery	66,908	76,019	65,056	- 10,611	+ 342	- 10,611	+ 342	
Hardware	208,211	243,867	192,529	- 35,656	+ 15,682	- 35,656	+ 15,682	
Implements and Tools...	188,652	201,299	183,707	- 12,657	+ 4,955	- 12,657	+ 4,955	

COTTON TRADE.

(Based on 496 Returns—389 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 98 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Spinning branch continued good, and was about the same as a year ago; in the Weaving branch it was fair, and not quite so good as a month ago or a year ago.

The number of workpeople employed by the firms making Returns for the week ended November 23rd was 128,733, being 0.1 per cent. less than a month ago, and 0.7 per cent. more than a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 1.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople.				Earnings.			
	No. paid Wages on pay day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Per cent.	Per cent.
		A month ago.	A year ago.		A month ago.	A year ago.		
Preparing	14,687	- 0.0	+ 0.7	13,785	+ 0.5	+ 4.9		
Spinning	26,752	+ 0.3	+ 1.4	26,525	+ 1.0	+ 5.7		
Weaving	59,729	- 0.3	+ 0.2	53,482	- 1.2	- 2.0		
Other	11,612	+ 0.4	+ 1.3	12,684	+ 0.0	+ 2.7		
Departments not specified	15,953	- 0.2	+ 1.0	16,812	- 4.3	+ 0.1		
Total	128,733	- 0.1	+ 0.7	123,288	- 1.1	+ 1.1		
Districts.								
Ashton District	7,534	- 0.1	+ 0.1	7,659	- 1.3	+ 2.0		
Stockport, Glossop, and Hyde	8,360	+ 0.3	+ 1.1	8,144	- 0.1	+ 2.7		
Oldham District	13,923	+ 0.2	- 0.4	14,864	- 0.6	+ 4.1		
Bolton and Leigh	15,804	- 0.0	+ 3.5	14,718	+ 0.2	+ 7.0		
Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Walsden, & Todmorden	10,634	+ 0.3	+ 0.9	10,165	+ 0.0	+ 1.8		
Manchester District	9,899	- 0.6	- 1.8	7,663	+ 1.0	+ 0.4		
Preston and Chorley	12,200	- 0.0	- 0.2	10,582	- 1.1	- 5.0		
Blackburn, Accrington, & Darwen	15,353	- 0.4	+ 1.0	15,117	- 1.1	- 1.9		
Burnley, Padiham, Colne, and Nelson	15,967	- 0.1	+ 1.3	18,271	- 0.4	- 0.2		
Other Lancashire Towns	6,914	- 0.1	- 0.7	5,855	- 4.2	- 2.5		
Yorkshire Towns	5,977	- 0.1	+ 1.0	5,589	- 0.0	+ 2.1		
Other Districts	6,168	+ 0.0	+ 1.5	4,364	- 1.6	+ 2.4		
Total	128,733	- 0.1	+ 0.7	123,288	- 1.1	+ 1.1		

In the preparing and spinning departments little change was shown as compared with a month ago; compared with a year ago there was an increase in both departments in the amount of wages paid, mainly owing to the recent advance in the rates of wages. In the weaving branch there was a slight decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. Short time and

waiting for warps were reported in the Blackburn and Burnley districts.

Compared with a month ago, there were decreases in the amount of wages paid in nine districts, the greatest decreases being in the miscellaneous group of Lancashire towns (4.2 per cent.), and in the Blackburn district (4.1 per cent.) Compared with a year ago, the principal increases were in the Bolton and Oldham districts. There were decreases in four districts, the most marked being in the Preston district (5.0 per cent.).

Raw Cotton.

American Cotton.—During the month of November the average price of raw cotton "middling American" at Liverpool was 5.96d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 6.19d. per lb., and the lowest 5.75d. The price for October was 6.40d. per lb., and for November, 1906, 5.85d. per lb. For the period from December 1st to 10th, 1907, the average price of "middling American" was 6.33d. per lb.

Egyptian Cotton.—The price of "good fair Egyptian" during November averaged 9.61d. per lb., the highest price on any one day being 9.19d., and the lowest 9.16d. per lb. The price for October was 9.59d., and for November, 1906, 8.80d. per lb. For the period from 1st to 10th December, 1907, the average price of "good fair Egyptian" was 9.63d. per lb.

The visible supply of American cotton for the United Kingdom on December 13th, 1907, was estimated by the Liverpool Cotton Association to be 906,380 bales, as compared with 874,820 bales on December 14th, 1906.

Particulars of the various descriptions of cotton forwarded from ports to inland towns are given below for the months stated:—

Description of Cotton.	Nov., 1907.		Oct., 1907.		Nov., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Bales.								
American	284,321	244,832	297,809	+ 39,489	- 13,488			
Brazilian	9,147	18,221	16,746	- 9,074	- 7,599			
East Indian	3,378	5,355	1,405	- 1,977	+ 1,973			
Egyptian	60,957	26,164	60,948	+ 34,793	+ 9			
Miscellaneous	6,412	8,817	12,507	- 2,405	- 6,495			
Total	364,215	303,389	389,815	+ 60,826	- 25,600			

Exports of Cotton Goods.

The following Table shows the quantity of exported cotton yarn and cotton piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.		Oct., 1907.		Nov., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.	A month ago.	A year ago.
Cotton Yarn and Twist—								
Grey	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.	1,000 lbs.			
Bleached and Dyed	19,708	19,123	14,304	+ 585	+ 5,404			
Total	2,799	2,713	2,958	+ 86	- 159			
Cotton Piece Goods—								
Grey or Unbleached	175,712	184,547	181,826	- 8,835	- 6,114			
Bleached	147,012	145,120	134,445	+ 1,892	+ 12,567			
Printed	95,511	93,251	90,853	+ 2,660	+ 4,658			
Dyed or Manufactured of Dyed Yarn	58,140	98,763	94,896	- 623	+ 3,244			
Total	516,375	521,681	504,020	- 5,306	+ 14,355			

WOOLLEN AND WORSTED TRADES.

(Based on 394 Returns—374 received from Employers, 11 from Trade Unions, and 9 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen Trade.

EMPLOYMENT on the whole was good, but showed a slight decline compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 28,250 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of

workpeople employed by these firms during the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 1.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 1.2 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting	872	- 0.3	+ 3.1	810	- 2.1	+ 5.7		
Spinning	5,619	+ 0.5	- 0.8	4,960	- 0.7	+ 0.3		
Weaving	11,834	- 0.6	+ 0.3	10,105	- 2.3	+ 1.3		
Other Departments	8,078	+ 0.5	+ 4.2	8,178	- 0.0	+ 4.3		
Unspecified	1,847	+ 1.9	+ 0.5	1,792	- 0.7	+ 3.0		
Total	28,250	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	25,845	- 1.2	+ 2.3		
Districts.								
Huddersfield District	4,391	- 0.2	+ 5.7	4,894	- 3.8	+ 2.9		
Leeds District	3,951	- 0.8	- 2.9	3,642	+ 0.1	- 1.5		
Dewsbury & Batley District...	2,283	+ 0.8	+ 5.5	2,067	+ 0.6	+ 7.3		
Total, West Riding	14,154	- 0.7	+ 1.0	13,971	- 1.8	+ 0.5		
Scotland	8,211	+ 0.8	+ 0.2	7,318	+ 0.1	+ 2.6		
Other Districts	5,885	+ 0.9	+ 3.5	4,556	- 1.3	+ 7.6		
Total, Woollen	28,250	+ 0.1	+ 1.3	25,845	- 1.2	+ 2.3		

In the Huddersfield district employment showed a decline, but was still good, and better than a year ago. In the Leeds district it was fairly good, but showed a decline compared with a month ago and a year ago. In the heavy woollen district it showed little change compared with a month ago, and was slightly worse than a year ago. Employment was reported as good at Hawick and Selkirk, and fairly good at Galashiels.

Worsted Trade.

Employment continued good, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 50,411 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 2.7 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed a decrease of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and an increase of 6.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by returns.				Earnings.			
	No. employed on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with a		Per cent.	Per cent.
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.		
Wool Sorting & Combing...	5,406	- 4.4	+ 5.0	5,213	- 7.0	+ 8.8		
Spinning	26,537	+ 0.2	+ 1.4	14,622	- 0.3	+ 5.4		
Weaving	10,914	+ 0.5	+ 3.0	9,697	- 0.4	+ 3.0		
Other Departments	6,051	+ 1.2	+ 3.8	6,262	+ 2.4	+ 5.0		
Unspecified	1,523	+ 0.9	+ 10.8	1,124	+ 6.2	+ 27.9		
Total	50,411	- 0.1	+ 2.7	36,858	- 0.5	+ 6.3		
Districts.								
Bradford District	25,506	- 0.3	+ 2.1	18,210	- 1.6	+ 6.0		
Keighley District	6,852	- 0.6	+ 6.3	5,166	+ 0.1	+ 10.6		
Halifax District	5,097	+ 0.6	- 2.0	3,274	+ 1.7	+ 2.2		
Huddersfield District	6,822	+ 0.2	+ 0.3	6,486	+ 1.1	+ 4.3		
Other Parts of West Riding...	3,046	- 1.3	+ 2.6	1,868	- 2.8	+ 5.1		
Total, West Riding	47,323	- 0.2	+ 2.0	35,004	- 0.6	+ 5.9		
Other Districts	3,088	+ 2.1	+ 14.3	1,854	+ 1.2	+ 13.7		
Total, Worsted	50,411	- 0.1	+ 2.7	36,858	- 0.5	+ 6.3		

In the Bradford district employment with wool-combers showed a further decline, but was better than a year ago; in the other branches of the trade it was

good, and better than a year ago. In the Keighley, Halifax, and Huddersfield districts employment was good, and better than a year ago.

Prices of Raw Material.

The prices of wool and tops in Bradford are shown below for the three months specified:—

	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.
Average Prices:	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.	Pence per lb.
Lincoln Hoggas ...	12½	12½	13½
40's Crossbred tops ...	15	16½	16½
60's Super Botany tops ...	26½	30	26½
Course of Prices:			
Lincoln Hoggas ...	12½-12	12½-12½	13½-13½
40's Crossbred tops ...	15½-15	16½-15½	15½-17½
60's Super Botany tops ...	30-28	29½-30	26-26½

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw wool imported and exported, and of British and Irish exports of yarns and woollen and worsted piece goods for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports) 1,000 lbs.	45,325	11,579	30,123	+ 33,746	+ 15,202
British Exports	2,681	2,809	3,600	- 128	- 919
Yarn:					
Woolen ... 1,000 lbs.	187	227	207	- 40	- 20
Worsted ...	4,553	4,959	4,331	+ 406	+ 223
Alpaca & Mohair ..	1,490	1,695	1,314	- 205	+ 176
Total, Yarn ..	6,230	6,881	5,852	- 651	+ 378
Piece Goods:					
Woolen ... 1,000 yds.	5,806	5,592	5,700	+ 214	+ 106
Worsted ...	6,722	6,611	6,865	+ 111	- 143
Total, Piece Goods ..	12,528	12,203	12,565	+ 325	- 37

FLAX (LINEN) TRADE.

(Based on 111 Returns—104 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 4 from Trade Unions, and 3 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was good during the earlier part of the month, and was better than a year ago; towards the end of the month a decline was reported.

Returns received from firms employing 49,293 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed, and of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 0.5 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with		
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Preparing ...	6,580	+ 0.9	2,670	+ 1.6	+ 10.0	
Spinning ...	12,305	+ 1.0	6,075	+ 0.5	+ 14.8	
Weaving ...	16,248	- 2.0	9,170	- 4.7	- 4.4	
Other ...	7,349	- 0.4	5,889	- 0.5	+ 2.6	
Not specified ...	6,811	+ 2.1	4,082	- 1.5	+ 8.4	
Total ...	49,293	- 0.1	29,195	- 1.6	+ 4.1	
Districts.						
Belfast ...	17,623	+ 0.6	10,757	- 1.3	+ 7.1	
Other Places in Ireland	16,266	- 0.7	8,804	- 1.7	+ 2.9	
Total, Ireland...	33,919	- 0.1	19,561	- 1.5	+ 5.2	
Fifeshire ...	6,782	- 1.0	4,260	- 2.7	- 1.6	
Other Places in Scotland	6,647	+ 0.4	4,199	- 0.5	+ 4.6	
Total, Scotland	13,429	- 0.3	8,459	- 1.6	+ 1.4	
England ...	1,945	+ 0.6	1,175	- 3.8	+ 6.8	
United Kingdom	49,293	- 0.1	29,195	- 1.6	+ 4.1	

Compared with both a month ago and a year ago the weaving department showed a decline, and the preparing and spinning departments an improvement in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid.

Employment generally was good during the earlier part of the month, and better than a year ago; but towards the end of the month there was a decline, and several firms adopted short time.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported flax, and of British and Irish exports of linen yarn and piece goods, for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Flax (Dressed and Undressed, Tow or Codilla) ... Tons	3,643	3,703	4,909	- 60	- 1,266
Exports:					
Linen Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	12,516	14,619	13,025	- 2,103	- 509
Linen Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	135,402	138,924	172,521	- 23,522	- 37,119

JUTE TRADE.

(Based on 35 Returns—33 from Employers and Employers' Associations, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT continued good on the whole, and was better than a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 18,630 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 0.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 0.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number employed, and of 7.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Of the 18,630 workpeople covered by the Returns, 16,181 (or 87 per cent.) were employed in the Dundee district.

Compared with a month ago, the spinning department showed a slight increase in the number employed and in the amount of wages paid, while the other departments showed a decline. Compared with a year ago every department showed an increase in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Departments.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-), as compared with	Aggregate amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
				A month ago.	A year ago.	
Preparing ...	4,294	- 0.0	2,808	- 0.5	+ 8.5	
Spinning ...	5,168	+ 0.3	3,232	+ 1.0	+ 10.6	
Weaving ...	6,189	- 1.0	4,543	- 1.8	+ 5.2	
Other ...	2,084	- 0.7	2,137	- 1.6	+ 9.0	
Not specified ...	895	- 0.3	662	- 0.4	+ 7.1	
Total ...	18,630	- 0.3	13,387	- 0.7	+ 7.8	

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of imported jute and of British and Irish exports of jute yarn and piece goods for the months stated.

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:					
Jute ... Tons	47,074	35,201	62,463	+ 11,873	- 15,389
Exports:					
Jute Yarn ... 100 Lbs.	61,351	52,866	61,058	+ 11,485	+ 3,293
Jute Piece Goods ... 100 Yds.	155,575	175,508	174,243	- 19,933	- 18,668

LACE TRADE.

(Based on 97 Returns—88 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England, on the whole, was moderate, and showed a decline in the levers branch compared with a month ago and a year ago. In Scotland it was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from firms employing 9,404 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd, and paying £8,979 in wages, showed a decrease of 0.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 4.1 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.1 per cent. in the number employed, and a decrease of 4.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Nottingham employment was fair in the curtain branch, good in the plain net branch; in the levers branch there was a decline compared with both a month ago and a year ago. In the Long Eaton district employment was quiet, in the West of England it showed a further slight decline. In Scotland employment, on the whole, was fair, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Levers ...	2,710	- 2.9	3,251	- 10.3	- 16.1	
Curtain ...	2,780	+ 0.4	2,704	+ 0.4	+ 4.6	
Plain Net ...	2,882	+ 0.5	2,292	- 0.4	+ 5.4	
Others ...	1,032	- 0.2	732	- 2.3	- 0.5	
Total ...	9,404	- 0.6	8,979	- 4.1	- 4.2	
Districts.						
Nottingham City ...	2,103	- 1.6	1,826	- 8.7	- 11.2	
Long Eaton and other outlying districts	1,733	+ 0.3	2,195	- 5.9	- 6.4	
Other English districts	3,529	+ 1.5	3,105	- 2.8	- 2.2	
Scotland ...	2,039	+ 1.1	1,853	+ 0.8	+ 3.4	
Total ...	9,404	- 0.6	8,979	- 4.1	- 4.2	

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the values of lace imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Silk Lace ...	15,448	14,632	23,864	+ 816	- 8,416
Exports:—					
Cotton Lace ...	395,018	405,197	390,218	- 9,179	+ 5,800
Silk Lace ...	7,495	9,399	8,309	- 1,814	- 814

SILK TRADE.

(Based on 54 Returns—52 from Employers, and 2 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole. It showed a slight decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Returns received from firms employing 9,009 workpeople, and paying £5,967 in wages on pay-day in the week ended November 23rd, 1907, showed that, compared with a month ago, there was a decrease of 0.4 per cent. in the number of workpeople employed, and of 2.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid. Compared with a year ago, there was an increase of 3.6 per cent. in the number employed, and of 3.4 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

The Returns are summarised in the following Table:—

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		
				Month ago.	Year ago.	
Throwing ...	1,137	- 1.5	£ 500	+ 3.7	+ 2.7	
Spinning ...	2,730	+ 0.7	2,018	+ 0.1	+ 6.0	
Weaving ...	3,843	- 0.7	2,469	- 3.9	+ 2.3	
Other ...	1,057	+ 0.1	844	- 1.7	+ 1.2	
Not Specified ...	242	- 2.8	136	- 2.2	+ 3.8	
Total ...	9,009	- 0.4	5,967	- 2.2	+ 3.4	
Districts.						
Lancashire and W. Riding of Yorkshire	3,575	+ 0.8	2,656	+ 0.4	+ 4.1	
Macclesfield, Congleton and District	832	- 1.5	584	- 2.7	+ 0.5	
Eastern Counties ...	2,522	- 0.6	1,405	- 4.9	+ 2.4	
Other Districts, including Scotland	2,080	- 1.6	1,322	- 4.1	+ 4.4	
Total ...	9,009	- 0.4	5,967	- 2.2	+ 3.4	

At Macclesfield, Congleton, and Leek employment was good with spinners and throwsters. At Macclesfield it was bad, and worse than a month ago, with both handloom and powerloom weavers. At Leek it was fair with twisters. At Congleton it was bad with trimming weavers, who were still on short time. In the Bradford district employment was fairly good. In the Eastern Counties employment continued fair.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities of raw and manufactured silk imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Raw Silk ... Lbs	99,115	181,091	93,897	- 81,076	+ 218
Thrown Silk ...	43,028	52,873	58,741	- 9,845	- 15,713
Spun Silk Yarn ...	17,651	22,940	30,913	- 5,289	- 13,262
Silk Broad-Stuffs yards	4,987,010	5,686,445	5,668,043	- 699,435	- 681,033
Exports:—					
Thrown Silk ... Lbs	3,718	3,696	714	+ 23	+ 3,004
Spun Silk Yarn ...	81,929	87,993	94,550	- 6,064	- 12,621
Silk Broad-Stuffs... yards	329,142	386,757	638,800	- 57,615	- 309,658

HOSIERY TRADE.

(Based on 100 Returns—93 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 2 from Trade Unions, and 5 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in England was fair; in Scotland it was good. It was better than a year ago in all districts.

Firms employing 17,773 workpeople, and paying £13,738 in wages in the week ended November 23rd, have made Returns. From these it appears that there was an increase of 0.4 per cent. in the number employed, but a decrease of 1.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, compared with a month ago. Compared with a year ago there was an increase of 3.9 per cent. in the number employed, and of 6.8 per cent. in the amount of wages paid.

At Leicester employment was about the same as a month ago, and was much better than a year ago. At Hinckley and Loughborough it was moderate. Employment at Nottingham was, on the whole, moderate with power framework knitters. In Derbyshire employment showed a decline. With hand framework knitters generally it was moderate. In Scotland employment was good, and better than a year ago.

District.	Workpeople covered by Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. paid wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
Leicester	8,325	- 0.1	+ 5.7	6,693	- 0.8	+ 12.2
Leicester Country District ...	3,084	+ 0.5	+ 3.6	2,376	- 1.1	+ 2.1
Notts. and Derbyshire ...	3,534	+ 0.8	+ 0.1	2,769	- 4.1	+ 0.5
Scotland	2,111	+ 1.6	+ 4.0	1,428	- 2.2	+ 3.3
Other Districts	721	+ 0.4	+ 5.3	474	+ 1.9	+ 7.8
Total, United Kingdom	17,773	+ 0.4	+ 3.9	13,738	- 1.6	+ 6.8

The Imports of woollen and cotton hosiery in November, 1907, amounted to £35,467 and £98,199 respectively, as compared with £38,928 and £121,454 in October, 1907, and £29,835 and £77,324 in November, 1906.

The Exports of woollen and cotton hosiery in November, 1907, amounted to £97,641 and £41,025 respectively, as compared with £121,234 and £43,071 in October, 1907, and £92,345 and £41,967 in November, 1906.

OTHER TEXTILE TRADES.

Printing, Dyeing, Bleaching, and Finishing.

(Based on 52 Returns—4 from Employers' Associations, 26 from Trade Unions, and 22 from Local Correspondents.)

Woollen and Worsted Dyers.—Employment in the West Riding was moderate, and, on the whole, rather worse than a year ago. About three-sevenths of the Trade Union dyers worked short time, and about two-sevenths worked overtime.

Cotton Dyers.—Employment generally was moderate, and worse than a year ago.

Silk Dyers.—Employment was reported as good at Macclesfield, fair at Leek.

Calico Printers, &c.—Employment with machine calico printers was fairly good, but rather worse than a year ago; with calico printers' engravers it was fair. In Glasgow it was quiet with calico printers and engravers, and good with block printers.

Hosiery and Lace Dyers, Trimmers, &c.—Employment at Leicester showed little change, and the majority of workpeople were still on short time. At Hinckley a decline was shown; at Loughborough there was a slight improvement. With dyers at Nottingham employment was slack, with bleachers at Basford, Bulwell and Nottingham it was moderate, with hosiery trimmers at Basford and Bulwell it was fair: on the whole, employment in Nottinghamshire was worse than a year ago.

Calenderers, &c.—In Glasgow employment continued fair, and was about the same as a year ago. At Dundee it was fair with calender workers and bleachfield workers.

TAILORING TRADE.

(Based on 118 Returns—86 from Employers, 5 from Trade Unions, and 27 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the bespoke branch in London was moderate and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago. In the provinces it was quiet. In the ready-made branch it was fair, and better than a year ago.

Bespoke Branch.

London.—Employment during November was moderate, and showed a decline as compared with a month ago; it was better than a year ago.

Firms paying £11,338 to their workpeople during the four weeks ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 3.6 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and an increase of 3.3 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment was reported as bad at Glasgow, dull at Dublin, fair at Belfast and Liverpool, quiet at Edinburgh.

Ready-made Branch.

London.—Employment on the whole was moderate, and slightly worse than a year ago.

Leeds.—Employment on the whole was fairly good, and better than a year ago. Firms employing 7,065 workpeople in their factories (in addition to persons employed on work for them in workshops) in the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 3.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Other Centres.—Employment at Manchester was moderate. At Bristol it continued fair, and was better than a year ago. At Norwich employment was fair. In Glasgow it continued good, and was better than a year ago.

The Imports of apparel, not waterproofed, in November, 1907, were valued at £190,086, as compared with £303,858 in October, 1907, and £273,362 in November, 1906; and the Exports for the same months at £413,759, £423,120, and £404,430, respectively.

BOOT AND SHOE TRADE.

(Based on 505 Returns—484 received from Employers, partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 10 from Trade Unions, and 11 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT generally continued fair, and was better than a year ago.

Firms employing 59,856 workpeople have stated the wages paid in the periods under review. The number of workpeople employed by these firms in the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 0.7 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 0.6 per cent. compared with a year ago. The amount of wages paid showed an increase of 0.5 per cent. compared with a month ago, and of 2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago.

Employment at Leicester was better than a month ago, but showed a slight decline as compared with a year ago. At Northampton it was fair, and much better than a year ago; army bootmakers in the country districts were fully employed. At Kettering employment showed a further decline. At Bristol employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the heavy boot trade employment was good at Kingswood, moderate at Leeds. At Glasgow employment was fair; at Maybole it was good.

District.	Workpeople covered by the Returns.			Earnings.		
	No. employed during week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a		Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.		Month ago.	Year ago.
		Per cent.	Per cent.	£	Per cent.	Per cent.
ENGLAND & WALES						
London	2,327	- 0.8	+ 2.2	2,500	- 1.8	+ 0.1
Leicester	12,958	+ 1.4	- 0.6	13,010	+ 4.7	0.3
Leicester Country District ...	3,237	+ 0.1	- 1.6	3,054	+ 2.2	+ 1.0
Northampton	7,960	+ 1.1	+ 6.4	7,495	- 1.2	+ 12.8
Northampton Country District ...	8,365	+ 0.9	+ 4.1	8,013	+ 10.8	+ 6.8
Kettering	3,975	+ 0.4	- 0.7	3,684	- 5.2	+ 0.9
Stafford & District	2,540	- 0.2	+ 0.2	2,092	- 1.4	+ 2.3
Norwich & District	3,346	...	- 0.1	2,937	+ 2.7	+ 5.4
Bristol & District	1,617	- 0.9	- 5.7	1,502	- 0.6	- 2.5
Kingswood	1,790	+ 0.9	- 6.6	1,901	+ 2.5	- 4.2
Leeds & District	2,379	+ 1.1	- 4.5	2,150	- 0.9	- 5.7
Manchester & District	2,512	- 0.2	- 1.9	2,207	- 5.2	- 3.8
Birmingham & District	1,031	+ 1.4	- 1.0	788	- 3.2	+ 2.4
Other parts of England and Wales ...	1,705	- 1.0	- 3.7	1,509	- 1.2	- 3.8
ENGLAND & WALES	55,743	+ 0.6	+ 0.4	52,852	+ 0.5	+ 2.3
SCOTLAND	3,829	+ 1.5	+ 3.9	3,736	+ 1.2	+ 11.4
IRELAND	284	- 2.1	- 2.7	193	- 7.2	- 11.9
UNITED KINGDOM	59,856	+ 0.7	+ 0.6	56,781	+ 0.5	+ 2.8

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the quantities and values of the boots and shoes imported, exported and re-exported for the months stated:—

		Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
					Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports (less Re-Exports)						
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	15,400	16,488	14,200	- 1,088	+ 1,200	
Value £	61,639	70,852	62,323	- 9,193	- 634	
Exports (British and Irish)						
Quantity ... Dozen pairs	70,012	69,402	68,263	+ 612	+ 1,049	
Value £	182,400	188,292	174,892	- 5,892	+ 7,508	

HAT TRADE.

(Based on 13 Returns—2 from Employers' Associations, 10 from Trade Unions, and 1 from a Local Correspondent.)

EMPLOYMENT during November in the Silk hat branch was bad, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the Felt hat branch employment was disorganised by a dispute.

In the Silk hat trade the percentage of Trade Union members unemployed at the end of November was 16.0, compared with 12.1 at the end of October, and 10.2 a year ago.

In the Felt hat trade the Denton district was affected by a dispute during the whole of November, and the Stockport district was also affected during the last fortnight. In Warwickshire and at Bury employment was fair; in the Hyde district it was good.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the number of hats and bonnets, trimmed and untrimmed, imported and exported for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports ... (all kinds)	30,071	28,140	21,170	+ 1,931	+ 8,901
Exports:					
Felt	31,827	42,751	30,511	- 10,854	+ 1,386
Straw	42,542	36,928	49,777	+ 5,614	+ 1,765
Other Sorts	4,531	4,435	5,448	+ 96	- 917
Total	78,970	84,114	76,736	- 5,144	+ 2,234

OTHER CLOTHING TRADES.

(Based on 180 Returns—176 from Employers, and 4 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in London in the dressmaking trade was fair with retail firms, and about the same as a year ago; with Court dressmakers it was moderate, and worse than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, &c., trades in London, employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. In the shirt and collar trade generally it was fair; in the corset trade fairly good.

Dressmaking, Millinery, and Mantle Trades.—Returns from retail firms in London, chiefly in the West-End, employing 1,588 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd, showed a decrease of 2.0 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and an increase of 0.4 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fair. Court dressmakers, employing 1,038 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd, showed a decrease of 3.8 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 4.9 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was moderate.

Employment with milliners in the West-End was fair, worse than a month ago and better than a year ago. In the wholesale mantle, costume, blouse, underclothing and infants' millinery trades, firms in London employing 3,456 workpeople on their premises (in addition to outworkers) showed a decrease of 6.5 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of

2.8 per cent. compared with a year ago: employment during the month was slack.

Returns from two Employment Bureaux in London showed no change in the demand for, and a marked decline in the supply of, dressmakers and milliners compared with a year ago.

In Manchester employment with mantle makers was good, and better than a year ago. In the costume and skirt trade employment during the month was slack; firms employing 1,450 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd showed an increase of 0.1 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and a decrease of 1.7 per cent. compared with a year ago.

In Glasgow employment in the mantle trade was fairly good; not so good as a month ago, but better than a year ago.

Shirt and Collar Trade.—Returns received from shirt and collar manufacturers in England, Scotland and Ireland, employing 6,769 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended November 23rd showed a decrease of 3.2 per cent. in the amount of wages paid compared with a month ago, and of 0.3 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment generally was fair.

Corset Trade.—Returns received from corset manufacturers employing 3,037 workpeople in their factories (in addition to outworkers) in the week ended November 23rd, showed an increase of 1.2 per cent. in the number employed compared with a month ago, and of 1.0 per cent. compared with a year ago. Employment during the month was fairly good.

OTHER LEATHER TRADES.

(Based on 43 Returns—27 from Trade Unions, and 16 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was moderate. It was worse than a month ago, and rather worse than a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 3,759 had 5.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 4.9 per cent. in October, and 5.3 per cent. a year ago.

Skinner, Tanners, Curriers, Dressers, &c.—Employment with skinner was fair at Birmingham and at Leeds; bad in London. With curriers it was quiet on the whole; in London it was bad, and worse than in October or in November, 1906. Employment with dressers was bad. With leather workers generally employment was good at Manchester, Bolton, Bury and Wigan, but quiet at Leeds.

Saddle and Harness Makers.—Employment was quiet in London and at Walsall, but fairly good in other parts of the country.

Miscellaneous Leather Trades.—With fancy leather workers employment was bad. With portmanteau and trunk makers it was fair for the time of year.

Imports and Exports.—The Table below shows the imports of hides and undressed skins and of leather, and the exports of saddlery and harness, for the months stated:—

Description.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Imports:—					
Hides, raw, and pieces thereof, dry	28,321	27,552	37,390	+ 770	- 9,068
Do, wet	69,745	60,113	34,275	+ 9,632	+ 35,470
Total, hides, dry and wet	98,057	87,655	71,655	+ 10,402	+ 26,402
Goat skins, undressed (No.)	751,769	766,026	1,342,519	- 14,257	- 590,750
Sheep skins " (value) £	188,474	365,180	211,370	- 107,706	- 22,896
Leather*	cwts. 94,646	cwts. 110,436	cwts. 114,944	- 15,790	- 20,298
Exports:—					
Saddlery and harness (value) £	49,990	60,538	56,041	- 10,548	- 6,051

* Includes hides tanned, tawed, curried, or in any way dressed, and goat and sheep skins tanned or dressed as leather.

PAPER, PRINTING, [AND] BOOK-BINDING TRADES.

(Based on 411 Returns—131 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 262 from Trade Unions, and 18 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good, as is usual at this season of the year. It was better than a month ago, and showed little change compared with a year ago.

PAPER TRADES.

Employment in these trades continued good. It was better than a year ago, and rather better than a month ago. Returns received from firms employing 22,047 workpeople in the last week of the month showed that there was an increase of 0.6 per cent. in the total number of workpeople employed as compared with a month ago, and of 3.1 per cent. compared with a year ago.

—	Number of Workpeople paid Wages in last week of November, 1907, by firms making Returns.	Percentage Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in No. of Workpeople as compared with a	
		Month ago.	Year ago.
Machine-made Paper and Milled Boards:			
Northern Counties ...	6,929	+ 0.1	+ 2.1
Midlands, Wales, and Ireland...	2,445	+ 0.4	+ 3.7
Southern Counties ...	6,662	+ 1.4	+ 6.0
Scotland ...	5,243	+ 0.5	+ 1.1
Total, Machine-made Paper, &c.	21,219	+ 0.6	+ 3.2
Hand-made Paper ...	828	+ 0.4	+ 1.2
Total ...	22,047	+ 0.6	+ 3.1

Trade Unions in the machine-made paper trade, with 1,893 members, had 1.7 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, compared with 1.6 per cent. in October, and 2.1 per cent. in November, 1906.

In the hand-made paper trade, Trade Unions with 608 members had 5.8 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, compared with 6.1 per cent. a month ago and 4.2 per cent. a year ago.

The Imports of paper in November, 1907, amounted to £486,101, as compared with £547,126 in October, 1907, and £476,308 in November, 1906, and the Exports for the same periods amounted to £192,582, £213,979, and £189,933 respectively.

PRINTING TRADES.

Employment in these trades was fairly good; better than a month ago and about the same as a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 49,001 had 3.3 per cent. unemployed at the end of November, 1907, the same as a year ago. In October, 1907, the percentage was 4.9.

Districts.	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	20,275	3.6	6.0	3.4	- 2.4	+ 0.2
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	5,200	2.0	3.0	3.5	- 1.0	- 1.5
Lanes. and Cheshire...	6,703	4.2	5.2	3.9	- 1.0	+ 0.3
East Midland and Eastern Counties	2,401	1.8	2.7	2.0	- 0.9	- 0.2
West Midlands	2,502	3.6	4.6	2.7	- 1.0	+ 0.9
S. & S. W. Counties and Wales	3,922	2.5	2.4	2.0	+ 0.1	+ 0.5
Scotland	5,553	2.3	2.5	2.1	- 0.2	+ 0.2
Ireland ...	2,445	6.1	10.1	7.1	- 4.0	- 1.0
United Kingdom	49,001	3.3	4.9	3.3	- 1.6	...

London.—Employment was fair; much better than a month ago, and about the same as a year ago. At the end of the month 3.6 per cent. of Trade Union members were unemployed, as compared with 6.0 per cent. at the end of October, 1907, and 3.4 per cent. at the end of November, 1906.

Other Centres.—Employment with letterpress printers was good generally and much better than a month ago, a good deal of overtime being worked. At Leeds only one Trade Union member out of 1,002, and at Edinburgh only 3 out of 1,140, were reported as unemployed at the

end of the month. At Glasgow, however, employment was only moderate, and worse than a month ago. Birmingham, Plymouth, and Aberdeen reported an improvement towards the end of the month. With lithographic printers employment was fair on the whole, but slack at Liverpool and Dublin.

BOOKBINDING TRADES.

Employment was good on the whole, with a considerable amount of overtime in London.

The following Table shows the percentages unemployed in Trade Unions in the Bookbinding Trades:—

—	No. of Members of Unions at end of Nov., 1907, included in the Returns.	Percentage returned as Unemployed at end of			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in percentage unemployed as compared with a	
		Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
London ...	3,616	2.2	3.0	2.2	- 0.8	...
Other Districts ...	3,357	3.2	4.0	2.1	- 0.8	+ 1.1
United Kingdom ...	6,973	2.7	3.5	2.2	- 0.8	+ 0.5

BUILDING TRADES.

(Based on 1,815 Returns—828 from Employers and Employers' Associations, received partly direct and partly through the Trade Correspondent, 934 from Trade Unions and their branches, and 53 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in November was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns from 758 firms employing 44,648 workpeople at the end of November are summarised below. These Returns show that compared with a month ago there was a decrease of 4.6 per cent., and compared with a year ago a decrease of 7.0 per cent., in the total number of workpeople employed. In London the decrease amounted to 6.5 per cent. compared with October, and 15.9 per cent. compared with November, 1906. In the provinces the decrease was smaller, amounting to 3.8 per cent. compared with a month ago, and 2.6 per cent. compared with a year ago.

District.	Number of Workpeople paid wages on the last pay-day of the month.					
	Nov., 1907.			Nov., 1906.		
	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.
	Skilled Tradesmen.			Labourers.		
London ...	7,389	8,165	8,925	5,425	5,559	6,344
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	2,639	2,725	2,769	2,188	2,236	2,620
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	4,070	4,217	3,949	3,014	3,416	3,046
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S. W. Counties & Wales	2,809	2,900	2,983	3,749	3,731	3,074
	2,895	2,846	2,884	1,904	2,038	2,095
England and Wales ...	19,802	20,853	21,510	16,280	16,980	17,185
Scotland ...	2,071	2,288	2,618	1,299	1,346	1,493
Ireland ...	756	792	474	716	776	711
United Kingdom ...	22,629	23,933	24,602	18,286	19,102	19,389
	Lads and Boys.			Total.		
London ...	527	550	596	13,341	14,274	15,665
Northern Counties and Yorkshire	597	590	676	5,424	5,551	6,071
Lancashire and Cheshire ...	1,050	1,069	1,083	8,134	8,702	8,078
Midland & Eastern Counties S. & S. W. Counties & Wales	346	357	372	6,904	6,988	6,429
	486	482	502	5,285	5,366	5,481
England and Wales ...	3,006	3,048	3,229	33,088	40,881	41,924
Scotland ...	658	653	709	4,019	4,287	4,880
Ireland ...	69	71	79	1,841	1,639	1,264
United Kingdom ...	3,733	3,772	4,017	44,648	46,807	48,008

The percentage of Trade Union carpenters and joiners unemployed at the end of November was 8.2, as compared with 7.1 a month ago and 6.9 a year ago; and for plumbers, for the same dates, 8.9, 8.3, and 6.9 respectively.

London.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Union returns relating to carpenters and joiners in the London district showed that 13.4 per cent. were unemployed at the end of the month, against 10.6 per cent. a month ago and 8.2 per cent. in November, 1906. The percentages for plumbers were 18.1, 14.9 and 11.9 respectively.

Northern Counties and Yorkshire.—Employment was slack generally. It was moderate with plumbers at Hull, Sheffield and Bradford, and with bricklayers at Middlesbrough.

Lancashire and Cheshire.—At Manchester and Liverpool employment was slack. At Oldham, Bolton, Burnley, Blackburn and Ashton-under-Lyne it was moderate on the whole.

Midland and Eastern Counties.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than in October.

Southern and South Western Counties and Wales.—Employment was slack generally, and worse than in October.

Scotland.—Employment was slack, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. At Dundee, however, it was fair with masons and carpenters.

Ireland.—Employment was slack generally.

FURNISHING AND WOODWORKING TRADES.

(Based on 158 Returns—6 from Employers' Associations, 131 from Trade Unions, and 21 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the furnishing and woodworking trades was moderate. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions with a membership of 35,028 reported 6.4 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of November, 1907, as compared with 5.2 per cent. a month ago and 4.8 per cent. in November, 1906.

Furnishing Trades.

Employment in the furnishing trades was quiet, and worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 8.0 per cent. of their members as unemployed at the end of November, 1907, as compared with 6.7 per cent. a month ago, and 5.8 per cent. in November, 1906. With cabinet makers in London employment continued bad. At Belfast, Manchester and Leeds it was moderate; at Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin it was bad. Employment with french-polishers and upholsterers was bad, and worse than a month ago.

The Imports of furniture and cabinet ware in November, 1907, were valued at £63,500, as compared with £41,994 in October, 1907, and £53,563 in November, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £79,241, £101,636, and £76,497 respectively.

Millsawyers and Woodcutting Machinists.

Employment with millsawyers and woodcutting machinists was dull. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions reported 6.4 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.3 per cent. in the previous month, and 5.4 per cent. a year ago. Employment continued dull in London, Newcastle and Glasgow. It was fair at Hull; moderate at Birmingham.

Description.	Imports.				
	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
				Month ago.	Year ago.
Timber, hewn ...	76,223	88,918	49,383	- 10,695	+ 26,340
" sawn ...	505,653	884,155	490,694	- 378,502	+ 14,959
House Frames, Fittings and Joiners' Work (value)	£ 19,134	£ 20,112	£ 14,499	- £ 978	+ £ 4,635

Coopers.

Employment with coopers was fair, the same as a month ago, and better than a year ago. Employment was good at Hull, Birmingham, Edinburgh and Dublin; fair at Liverpool and Glasgow; dull, but improving, at Manchester. At Burton it was bad, and worse than a month ago.

Coachbuilding.

Employment with coachbuilders was dull. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. Trade Unions

reported 7.1 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 5.4 per cent. a month ago, and 4.1 per cent. at the end of November, 1906. Employment in London was bad, and worse than a month ago; at the other principal centres it was quiet generally.

Miscellaneous.

Brushmakers.—Employment with brushmakers was fairly good; it showed some decline as compared with a month ago, but was better than a year ago. Trade Unions reported 2.8 per cent. of their members unemployed at the end of November, as compared with 2.2 per cent. a month ago, and 4.9 per cent. at the end of November, 1906.

Other Trades.—With packing-case makers employment was not so good as a month ago. At Bradford it was dull, at Glasgow it was fair. Employment with basket-makers continued fair generally. At Leicester it was rather better than a month ago; at Oldham it continued good.

The Imports of brushes and brooms in November, 1907, were valued at £28,749, as compared with £31,027 in October, 1907, and £32,136 in November, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £17,940, £19,494, and £16,801 respectively.

GLASS TRADES.

(Based on 87 Returns—57 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 18 from Trade Unions, and 12 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT was fairly good on the whole, and better than a month ago and a year ago.

Returns received from firms employing 8,519 workpeople in the week ended November 23rd, and paying £10,321 in wages, showed an increase of 2.1 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 3.3 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, as compared with a month ago. The increase in numbers employed was common to all districts, and to all branches except plate glass; while all departments and districts showed increases in the amount of wages paid.

As compared with a year ago there was an increase of 10.2 per cent. in numbers employed, and of 10.7 per cent. in the amount of wages paid, the increase in wages being shared by all departments and all districts.

Branches.	Workpeople covered by Returns.		Earnings.			
	Number paid Wages on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with	Aggregate Amount of Wages paid on pay-day in week ended Nov. 23rd, 1907.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.	
Plate Glass ...	5,325	+ 2.6	+ 17.0	6,690	+ 2.9	+ 15.4
Flint Glass Ware (not Bottles)	845	...	- 2.9	996	+ 2.3	+ 4.3
Other Branches...	1,956	+ 1.6	+ 1.4	2,229	+ 4.5	+ 0.7
Total ...	8,519	+ 2.1	+ 10.2	10,321	+ 3.3	+ 10.7
	Districts.		Per cent.		Per cent.	
North of England	1,121	+ 7.4	+ 7.5	1,398	+ 11.0	+ 10.3
Yorkshire ...	4,472	+ 1.5	+ 17.6	5,473	+ 1.7	+ 14.9
Lancashire ...	396	+ 0.5	+ 2.6	441	+ 2.8	+ 1.6
Worcester and Warwick	1,301	+ 1.1	- 1.1	1,587	+ 3.1	+ 4.0
Scotland ...	991	+ 2.0	+ 5.0	1,090	+ 3.0	+ 8.1
Other parts of United Kingdom	328	+ 0.9	+ 0.6	332	+ 2.2	+ 1.8
Total ...	8,519	+ 2.1	+ 10.2	10,321	+ 3.3	+ 10.7

Employment with glass bottle makers was good at Bristol and in Scotland; fairly good at Wakefield, and improving at Leeds and Castleford; fair at Dublin; moderate in Lancashire and the North of England; bad at Barnsley and Mexborough. It was good with medical glass bottle makers at Rotherham, and fairly good at Leeds. With flint glass makers employment continued fairly good. With cutters it was fair, and showed an improvement on the previous month; and at Wordsley it was good. Employment with plate glass bevellers and silverers at

Birmingham was fair, and also with sheet glass flatteners at St. Helens. It was fairly good with London glass blowers. Employment with pressed glass makers on the Tyne and Wear showed some improvement on last month, but a considerable amount of short time was still being worked. With decorative glass workers at Manchester employment was good.

Imports and Exports.

Description.	Nov., 1907.		Oct., 1907.		Nov., 1906.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with	
	Nov. 1907.	Oct. 1907.	Nov. 1906.	Oct. 1906.	Nov. 1906.	Oct. 1906.	A Month ago.	A Year ago.
Imports:								
Window & German Sheet Glass, including Shades, &c.	120,972	130,735	123,212	123,212	- 9,763	- 2,240		
Plate	27,660	28,219	30,160	30,160	- 559	- 2,500		
Flint, plain, cut or ornamental, &c.	71,506	75,006	74,375	74,375	- 3,500	- 2,869		
Manufactures, other sorts...	1,154	968	2,116	2,116	+ 186	+ 962		
Bottles	127,674	123,993	116,712	116,712	+ 3,771	+ 10,962		
Exports:								
Plate	16,255	12,248	13,551	13,551	+ 4,017	+ 2,714		
Flint	5,706	6,670	5,790	5,790	- 964	- 84		
Manufactures, other sorts ...	36,458	41,488	41,852	41,852	- 5,930	- 5,374		
Bottles	55,472	79,205	76,522	76,522	- 12,733	- 10,050		

POTTERY AND BRICK AND TILE TRADES.

(Based on 32 Returns—7 from Employers and Employers' Associations, 11 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

EMPLOYMENT in the Pottery trade continued good on the whole, and was about the same as a month ago and a year ago. In the Brick and Tile trades it was bad, partly through seasonal slackness. It was worse than a month ago and a year ago. A considerable amount of short time was worked during the month.

Pottery Trade.—Employment was good in Staffordshire and at Bristol and Rotherham; fair at Newcastle-on-Tyne and at Swadlincote; in Devonshire and Scotland it was moderate. Employment in the china furniture trade was bad, and worse than a month ago. With makers of china at Longton it was fair, but not so good as a month ago. With clay tobacco-pipe makers it was very good at Manchester, and fair at Glasgow, Gateshead, and Waterford.

Brick and Tile Trades.—Employment was bad at Peterborough, Market Harborough, Birmingham, Sheffield, and Stourbridge. At Nottingham also it was bad, and much short time was worked. It was dull in Scotland, Devonshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex, and slack at Plymouth and Exeter. It was moderate in the Tees and Hartlepool district, and fair at Bedford, in North Wales, and in South Staffordshire. In Shropshire, however, employment was improved; and in South Wales and Monmouthshire it was good.

The Imports of chinaware or porcelain and earthenware in November, 1907, were valued at £100,657, as compared with £88,434 in October, 1907, and £103,199 in November, 1906; and the Exports for the same periods were valued at £234,700, £256,257, and £230,620 respectively.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN ENGLAND.

(Based on 309 Returns from Correspondents in various districts.)

GENERALLY speaking employment was plentiful, but work was interrupted to some extent by continued wet weather, and in certain districts by the sodden condition of the land. The supply of day labourers was sufficient in most districts.

Northern Counties.—Wet weather hindered outdoor work in Northumberland, Durham, Cumberland, Westmorland,

and Lancashire. On the whole the supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. The supply of men for permanent situations was somewhat in excess of requirements. In the Cocker-mouth Union (Cumberland) a few men remained unhired at the Martinmas term. In Yorkshire, where the delay caused by wet weather was not so general, the supply of day labourers was fully equal to the demand. At the Martinmas hirings men for permanent situations were fairly plentiful, but lads were scarce.

Midland Counties.—Correspondents report that employment was generally regular in Cheshire and Derbyshire, and that little time was lost through wet weather. Day labourers were fully employed in potato lifting and mangold pulling, hedge trimming and ditch cleaning. In the Bucklow Union (Cheshire) teamsmen and cowmen were in request. Work was also plentiful in Nottinghamshire, but there was some interruption through rain and snow. Wet weather delayed root gathering and threshing in Leicestershire. A correspondent in the Billesdon Union states that lads were difficult to obtain for ploughing. Employment in Staffordshire was fairly regular on the whole, and work was plentiful, potato digging and root gathering being in arrear. In Shropshire and Worcestershire employment was irregular in consequence of the wet weather. The demand for casual labourers in some districts exceeded the supply, and, speaking generally, there was a scarcity of men for permanent situations. Reports from Warwickshire state that outdoor work, particularly threshing, was somewhat hindered by rain. There was a fairly good demand for day labourers, but the supply was usually sufficient. Farm labourers in Northamptonshire were fully employed on threshing and root gathering, there being but little interruption through bad weather. A scarcity of men for milking is mentioned in the Wellingborough Union. In certain districts of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire some time was lost by day labourers; the supply of such men was generally sufficient. Similar reports come from Herefordshire and Bedfordshire. Men for permanent situations were in demand in several districts.

Eastern Counties.—Employment in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire was fair with agricultural labourers, but some casual men lost time. On the whole the supply of day labourers was about equal to the demand. Wet weather caused some time to be lost by day labourers in Lincolnshire, but work was plentiful in threshing corn, pulling and storing mangolds and cutting turnips for sheep. There was in some districts a scarcity of men for temporary employment. In Norfolk and Suffolk employment was good, but outdoor work was checked for a few days by rain. Except in a few outlying districts the supply of day labourers was generally sufficient. Work was generally plentiful in Essex, and there was a fair demand for extra men. In certain districts, however, work slackened towards the end of the month and some day labourers were unemployed.

Southern and South-Western Counties.—In Kent and Surrey threshing, root gathering and other autumn work generally gave regular employment. The supply of day labourers and of men for permanent situations was about equal to the demand. Wet weather interfered to some extent with outdoor work in Sussex, Hampshire, Berks and Wilts. The supply of day labourers in these counties was generally more than sufficient. In Dorsetshire and Somersetshire somewhat similar conditions prevailed. Agricultural labourers were generally fully employed in Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, but some odd men lost time owing to wet weather and the sodden condition of the land. A scarcity of stock men and lads was reported in the Ledbury Union (Herefordshire). In Devonshire and Cornwall outdoor work, though plentiful, was interrupted in many districts by rain. The supply of labour was, as a rule, quite equal to the demand, but a correspondent in the Truro Union (Cornwall) states that the young men were going to the china clay district; there was consequently a demand for all kinds of labour, and farmers were paying higher wages.

DOCK AND RIVERSIDE LABOUR.

(Based on 133 Returns—116 from Employers, 3 from Trade Unions, and 14 from Local Correspondents.)

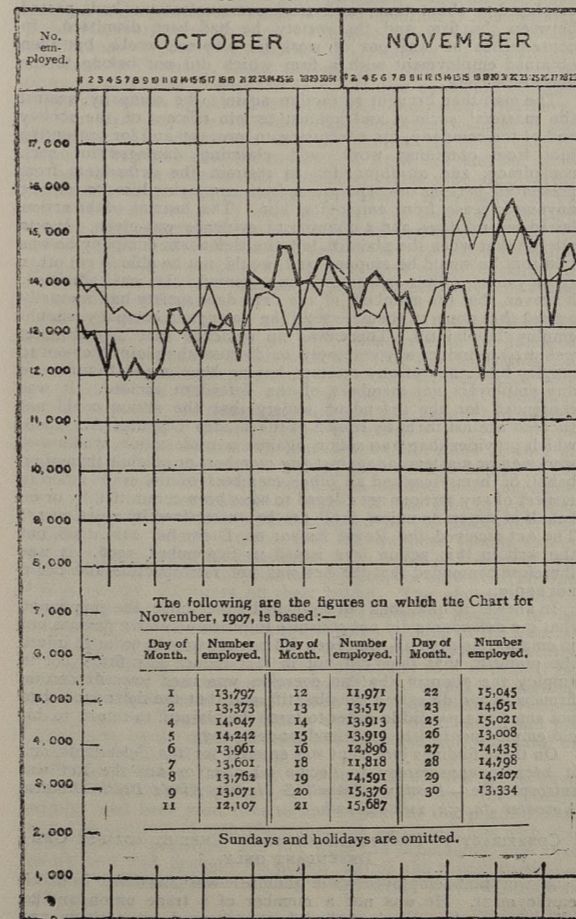
EMPLOYMENT generally was fair in London; it was better than a month ago but not quite so good as a year ago. It was fairly good at the other ports.

London.*—Employment generally was fair, and improved during the last two weeks of the month on account of the wool sales. The average number of labourers employed daily at the docks and principal wharves in the five weeks ended November 30th was 13,906, an increase of 6.0 per cent. as compared with the previous month, and a decrease of 1.8 per cent. as compared with a year ago.

Period.	Average Daily Number of Labourers employed in Docks and at Principal Wharves in London.			At 111 Wharves making Returns.	Total Docks and Principal Wharves.
	By Dock Companies or through Contractors	By Ship-owners, &c.	Total.		
Week ended Nov. and 9th	4,868	2,628	7,496	6,540	14,036
" " " 16th	5,310	1,916	7,226	6,555	13,781
" " " 23rd	4,885	1,816	6,701	6,353	13,054
" " " 30th	5,395	2,749	8,144	6,414	14,558
" " " 30th	5,722	2,048	7,770	6,364	14,134
Average for 5 weeks ended Nov. 30th, 1907	5,230	2,231	7,461	6,445	13,906
Average for Oct., 1907	4,605	2,295	6,900	6,224	13,124
Average for Nov., 1906	6,146†	2,478†	7,624†	6,586†	14,210†

Chart showing the total estimated number of Labourers employed by all the Docks, and at 111 of the principal Wharves, for each day during the months of October, 1907, and November, 1907. The corresponding curve for October, 1906, and November, 1906, is also given for comparison.

(The thick curve applies to 1907, and the thin curve to 1906.)



The daily numbers in November ranged from 11,818 on the 18th to 15,687 on the 21st. During the corresponding month of 1906 the numbers ranged from 12,117 on the 8th to 15,659 on the 20th.

* Exclusive of Tilbury. † Revised figures.

The mean daily number employed at Tilbury Dock was 1,295 during November, 1907, as compared with 1,170 in the previous month, and 1,378 in November, 1906.

At Liverpool employment at the South Docks continued moderate; at the North Docks it was good, and better than a month ago. An improvement was also reported with quay and railway carters.

Other Docks.—Employment on the Tyne and Wear was irregular, and worse than a month ago. At Middlesbrough and the Hartlepoons it was fairly good, but not so good as a month ago. With dockers and coal porters employment was fair at Hull, and good at Grimsby and Goole. It was fairly good at Yarmouth and Lowestoft; dull generally at Plymouth, and fair at Bristol and the South Wales ports. Dockers were fairly well employed at Manchester. At Glasgow employment was fair; at Leith it was good, and better than in October. The improvement at Dundee continued; at Aberdeen employment was fair. It was fair at Dublin, and quiet at Belfast.

FISHING INDUSTRY.

(Based on 21 Returns—2 from the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 from the Collectors of Fishery Statistics for England and Wales and the Fishery Board for Scotland, 1 from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and 8 from Local Correspondents.)

THE fish landed in November, 1907, showed an increase in quantity but a decrease in value as compared with November, 1906.

Employment at the principal ports was fairly good on the whole. At Yarmouth employment continued good; at Grimsby it was fair generally, but not so good as a month ago. With fishermen it was fair at Lowestoft, good at Hull; at both ports it was fair with fish dock labourers, and good with curers. At Aberdeen, Macduff and Peterhead employment was fair with fishermen; at Fraserburgh it was good. With fish dock labourers it was fair at Aberdeen, good at Peterhead, and moderate at Fraserburgh. With fish curers it was fair at all four Scottish ports. Off the south-western coast of England fishing operations were interfered with by stormy weather.

The following Table gives the quantities and values of the fish landed in November, 1907 and 1906, respectively:—

	Quantity.		Value.	
	Nov., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Nov., 1907.	Nov., 1906.
Fish (other than Shell):				
England and Wales	Cwts. 2,034,588	Cwts. 1,534,805	£ 756,503	£ 920,817
Scotland	262,180	227,235	122,682	123,965
Ireland	96,196	67,884	32,555	34,892
Total	2,392,964	1,829,924	911,740	1,079,674
Shell Fish			37,980	35,225
Total Value			949,720	1,114,899

The Exports of herrings, cured or salted, in November, 1907, were valued at £534,020, as compared with £464,449 in October, 1907, and £577,523 in November, 1906.

SEAMEN SHIPPED IN NOVEMBER.

(Based on 27 Returns received through the Marine Department of the Board of Trade.)

RETURNS received from certain selected ports (at which about 83 per cent. of the total tonnage in the foreign trade is entered and cleared) show that during November 40,495* seamen, of whom 4,683 (or 11.6 per cent.) were foreigners, were shipped on foreign-going vessels. The greatest increase as compared with November, 1906, occurred at Southampton, and the most marked decrease at Glasgow, the net result of all the increases and decreases being an increase of 2,884.

For the eleven months ended November, 1907, the total number of seamen shipped was 454,475,* or 20,936 more than during the corresponding period of 1906, chiefly accounted for by large increases at Southampton, Liverpool and Cardiff. The Tyne Ports showed a considerable decrease.

* It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements and not of separate individuals.

Lascars are not included in these figures.

Principal Ports.	Number of Seamen* shipped in					
	November,			Eleven months ended November,		
	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.	1906.	1907.	Inc. (+) or Dec. (-) in 1907.
ENGLAND AND WALES.						
East Coast.						
Tyne Ports ...	2,511	2,646	+ 135	30,844	27,981	- 2,863
Sunderland ...	340	393	+ 53	4,659	4,221	- 438
Middlesbrough ...	369	265	- 104	3,239	4,433	+ 1,196
Hull ...	1,247	1,175	- 72	14,184	13,538	- 646
Grimsby ...	33	55	+ 22	1,350	1,278	- 72
Bristol Channel.						
Bristol ...	675	532	- 143	7,113	6,898	- 215
Newport, Mon. ...	1,077	975	- 102	10,751	10,276	- 475
Cardiff ...	4,913	5,524	+ 611	53,347	56,451	+ 3,104
Swansea ...	396	445	+ 49	4,778	5,495	+ 717
Other Ports.						
Liverpool ...	14,099	14,696	+ 597	163,074	168,496	+ 5,422
London ...	5,220	5,686	+ 466	66,477	67,319	+ 842
Southampton ...	2,341	4,468	+ 2,127	24,336	38,389	+ 14,053
SCOTLAND.						
Leith ...	320	219	- 101	4,812	4,650	- 162
Kirkcaldy, Methil and Grangemouth ...	255	254	- 1	2,655	2,610	- 45
Glasgow ...	3,497	2,870	- 627	38,492	39,571	+ 1,079
IRELAND.						
Dublin ...	43	68	+ 25	979	641	- 338
Belfast ...	275	204	- 71	2,463	2,256	- 207
Total ...	37,611	40,495	+ 2,884	433,539	454,475	+ 20,936

LEGAL CASES AFFECTING LABOUR.

The following are among the more interesting legal cases affecting labour reported in November. The accounts are based principally upon reports appearing in newspapers:—

(1) Workmen's Compensation Acts.

COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT; GOING TO PAY OFFICE FOR WAGES.

A workman injured by accident is entitled to compensation only where the accident was one arising out of and in the course of the employment.

A miner in the employment of a colliery company was working on a night shift, and left the pit at 5 a.m. on a Saturday morning. At 12.30 p.m. the same day he set out to go to the pay office of the company for his wages for the past fortnight, as he was obliged to do in order to get his wages. He went along a footpath which had been made by the company for the use of their workmen, and was walking in the 4 ft. way along a railway line, which ran through the company's premises, when he was knocked down by an engine and injured. He was not to go to work again according to the ordinary course till the Sunday night. He claimed compensation, but the County Court judge refused to make an award in his favour on the ground that the accident did not arise in the course of the man's employment.

On appeal the Court of Appeal reversed this decision, holding that it was just as much part of the workman's employment to go to the pay office at the time he did as to go down the pit the following Sunday night; that, therefore, the accident did arise in the course of his employment, and the workman was entitled to compensation.—*Lowry v. Sheffield Coal Co., Ltd., Court of Appeal, November 28th, 1907.*

(2) Factory Acts.

DANGEROUS MACHINERY: OBLIGATION TO FENCE: DUTY OF EMPLOYERS TOWARDS WRONGDOER.

It is provided by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, that all dangerous parts of the machinery, and every part of the mill gearing, must either be securely fenced or be in such a position or of such construction as to be equally safe to every person employed or working in the factory as it would be if it were securely fenced.

A boy of 16 years of age was employed by a firm of engineers. In the course of his work he had to use cramps, or pieces of iron, as packing, to hold in position a bracket which he had to use. He was forbidden to work without using cramps, and had been reprimanded several times for disobeying this order. He was told that he might get the packing anywhere he could. Near the place where he worked was a kind of cupboard, or box, in which wheels forming part of the gearing revolved in darkness. One day the boy opened this cupboard, and took out a cramp which was inside, having seen some other person take cramps from the same place. Afterwards he was returning the cramp to the cupboard when his hand was caught by the revolving wheels, and he lost three of his fingers.

The boy then brought an action against his employers for damages for injuries received by their alleged negligence in neglecting to fence dangerous machinery as required by the Act. The defence was that the plaintiff had no duties to perform in connection with the machine by which he was injured, that he had no right to go near it, and that he had brought about his injuries by his own breach of duty.

The judge held that the Act did not make it the duty of the employers to fence as against a person who was a wrongdoer, and

It will be understood that the numbers given are the numbers of separate engagements, and not of separate individuals. Including Avonmouth and Portishead. † Including Barry and Penarth.

who had no right to go to the dangerous place at all; but that it was their duty to fence as against any person who in the ordinary course of business, even by his own negligence, might get injured. In summing up the case to the jury, he told them that it was for them to decide upon the facts whether the accident had happened through dangerous machinery not being securely fenced without substantial contribution by the plaintiff's own negligence; and he directed them that to find that the machinery was dangerous they must be satisfied that it was dangerous to an ordinary workman who had to work at or near it and who would exercise ordinary care, but that it was not necessary for machinery to be fenced against a workman who opened a door which he had no right to open and voluntarily thrust his hand into danger.

The jury found a verdict for the defendants. It was stated that the plaintiff would nevertheless be entitled to compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act.—*Jones v. Craven Brothers, Manchester Assizes, November 11th, 1907.*

(3) Trade Union Acts.

WORKMAN WITHDRAWN FROM EMPLOYMENT BY TRADE UNION: MEMBERS OF EMPLOYERS' SOCIETY REFUSE TO EMPLOY: CONSPIRACY.

An iron moulder had been in the employ of a company carrying on business as hydraulic and general engineers for about 28 years. He was a member of a trade union and was receiving more than the trade union rate of wages. The business of the employers changed in character, and they began to employ men chiefly in piece-work. The members of this trade union were not allowed by their rules to do piece work. In consequence the man in question was eventually the only member of the union left in these works. The union then declared the company's works to be "unfair" and required the man to leave the company's employment. He did not wish to leave; but if he had refused to comply with the requirements of his union he would have been expelled from the union and would have lost the benefit of twenty years' contributions. He accordingly left the employment, though the company were ready and anxious to keep him. There was in the district a masters' society of engineers, which included many of the firms carrying on business in the district, but by no means all of such firms. The man applied to several firms which belonged to the society for work and was refused. He obtained employment with several other firms, members of the society; but in each case, after being employed a short time, and after communications had passed between the firm and the society, he had been dismissed. In consequence he was out of work for nineteen weeks, but then obtained employment with a firm which did not belong to the masters' society.

The man then brought an action against the company, against the masters' society, and against certain officers of the society and of the company, for conspiring to prevent and for preventing him from obtaining work, and claiming damages for such conspiracy, and an injunction to restrain the defendants from preventing persons or corporations from employing him, or causing anyone to cease from employing him. The hearing of the action lasted several days, and a quantity of evidence was given. It was alleged that when the plaintiff left the defendant company he was told that he would be stopped and would not be able to get other employment. This allegation was denied. It was admitted, however, that the members of the defendant society had mutually agreed that none of them, except the defendant company, should employ the plaintiff. There was no evidence that any coercion was used to induce any employer to dismiss the plaintiff or not to employ him; nor of any attempt having been made to influence any employers not members of the defendant society. It was contended for the defendant society that the action could not succeed against them by reason of the Trades Disputes Act, 1906, which provides that "an action against a trade union, whether of workmen or masters, or against any members or officials thereof on behalf of themselves and all other members of the trade union in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been committed by or on behalf of the trade union, shall not be entertained by any Court." The Act received the Royal Assent on December 21st, 1906, but the writ in this action was issued in September, 1906. It was therefore contended that the Act was not retrospective and could not apply.

In answer to questions put to them by the judge, the jury found that the defendants did not conspire to procure certain persons not to employ the plaintiff, that they did not conspire in order to injure the plaintiff, that they did not in fact induce any firms not to employ the plaintiff, that no coercion was used towards certain firms who had dismissed the plaintiff, and that the defendants had not acted as they did in order to force the plaintiff to return to his old employment with the defendant company.

On these findings judgment was entered for the defendants, and it became unnecessary to decide whether or not the Act was retrospective.—*Bond v. Ashwell & Nesbitt, King's Bench Division, November 4th, 5th, 11th and 12th.*

CONSPIRACY TO PROCURE DISMISSAL: VERDICT AGAINST ONE DEFENDANT ONLY.

A workman employed as a plumber was dismissed from his employment. He was not a member of a trade union, and he alleged that his dismissal had been procured by a union and certain of its members. He accordingly brought an action in a county court against that union and three of its officers for damages for a conspiracy to induce his employers not to employ him.

At the trial the union and one of the other defendants were discharged from the action; but the jury found that the plaintiff had been dismissed from his employment by the efforts of the

other two defendants, and they awarded the plaintiff £50 damages against these two. These two defendants appealed; and a new trial was directed in order that the jury might determine, amongst other questions, whether the defendants had intended to punish the plaintiff for having worked at a "black shop."

At the second trial the jury found a verdict in favour of one of the two defendants, and he was dismissed from the action; but they found a verdict against the one remaining defendant, holding that he had procured the dismissal of the plaintiff in order to compel him to join the union, but not to punish him for having worked at a "black shop."

The one defendant left then appealed to the High Court; and the High Court allowed the appeal, and ordered judgment to be entered for this defendant, on the ground that an action for conspiracy could not be maintained against a single individual.—*Cooper v. The Plumbers' Union and Others, King's Bench Division, November 1st, 1907.*

(4) Miscellaneous.

EMPLOYMENT OF WORKMEN TO TAKE THE PLACE OF STRIKERS: BREACH OF CONTRACT.

There was a strike of dock labourers at Hamburg, and foreign labourers were introduced to take the place of the German strikers. A man, hearing that there was a demand for labourers, went to an office in London and there signed a contract to proceed to Hamburg and there work at loading and unloading ships. The office appeared to be the office of agents for the Hamburg-America Line. The man was told by someone at the office that the men were being engaged for that shipping company; and on the wall there was said to be a bill which announced that men were required by the Hamburg-America Line. The man was asked to sign a contract, which he did, as also did a large number of other men. By this document the signatories declared that they pledged themselves to the Harbour Working Association, and undertook to proceed to Hamburg and to do all work required in loading and unloading ships in Hamburg and on the Lower Elbe, either on land or on board ship or in lighters, for a fixed minimum time of four weeks. The men were to receive 5s. a day for nine hours' work, and 1s. an hour for overtime, Sundays and holidays. They were also to receive free board and lodging. They were to be conveyed free to Hamburg and back, and they were to be paid the agreed wages for the days occupied in the journey. There was no mention in the contract of the Hamburg-America Line. The association referred to was the Harbour Working Association of Hamburg, a corporation registered in Germany, under German law, with power to make contracts, and liable to sue or be sued. It was composed of ship-owners and others interested in the shipping business of Hamburg, and the Hamburg-America Line was an important member of the association. Its object was to provide dock labour in case of strikes. The man signed the contract on April 9th, and the same day he started on a steamer for Hamburg, arriving on April 11th. He worked up to and including April 22nd. He alleged that he and others tried to go to work on 23rd, but were prevented by violence on the part of German strikers. In any event he did not work after the 22nd. On the 30th he was paid his wages up to the 23rd, and he signed a receipt on a printed form which purported to be in full discharge of all claims. He was immediately afterwards brought back to England.

The man then brought an action in the High Court against the Hamburg-America Line for £6 5s. for wages due, or for damages for breach of contract. The defence was that the defendants did not employ the plaintiff; and that, if they did so, they acted only as agents of the Harbour Working Association of Hamburg, and, alternatively, the defendants said that the plaintiff had refused to work according to the terms of his contract.

It was proved at the hearing that the plaintiff, while at work at Hamburg, had lived on board a ship which did not belong to the defendants, and that he had worked in loading and unloading ships which did not belong to them. It was also proved that about three-fifths of the labour supplied by the association was supplied to the defendants, but that they supplied labour also to the other members of the association. On behalf of the defendants evidence was given that they neither engaged, nor authorised anyone else to engage, labourers on their behalf. The plaintiff alleged that when he signed the contract he believed himself to be contracting with the defendants, and knew nothing of the association. Also he alleged that he was coerced into signing the receipt and discharge by threats of being turned out with nothing if he refused to sign; and that he was hustled and hurried into signing in a room full of armed police. There was contradictory evidence given as to the degree of violence shown to the plaintiff and his companions by the other strikers, and as to the alleged refusal of the plaintiff to continue to work.

Without deciding the other questions raised, the judge gave judgment for the defendants, on the ground that the written contract had been read over to and signed by the plaintiff, that from the contract it was plain that the agreement was with the association as principals and not with the defendants, and that the plaintiff had brought his action against the wrong parties.—*Sedgbeer v. Hamburg-America Line, King's Bench Division, November 19th and 20th.*

PRICES AND WAGES IN THE IRON TRADE.

THE results of the latest ascertainties of the selling prices of iron, being the prices upon which wages are regulated, are given in the Table below.

Product and District.	Price according to last Audit.		Increase (+) or Decrease (-) of last Audit as compared with	
	Period covered by last Audit.	Ascertained average selling price per ton.	Previous Audit.	A Year ago.
Pig Iron.	1907.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
West of Scotland ...	Aug.-Oct.	64 2'648	- 1 10'752	+ 5 4'648
Manufact'd Iron.				
North of England:— (Rails, plates, bars, and angles)	Sept.-Oct.	146 9'10	+ 0 9'85	+ 13 9'63
Midlands:— (Bars, angles, tees, sheets, plates, hoops, straps, etc.)		150 6'93	+ 2 0'01	+ 13 1'92
West of Scotland:— (Rounds, squares, flats, tees, angles, hoops, and rods)		149 8'63	+ 2 1'40	+ 16 2'34

As a result of these ascertainties the wages of blastfurnacemen in the West of Scotland were reduced by 2½ per cent. from 1st November, while the wages of puddlers and millmen in the North of England, the Midlands, and the West of Scotland remain unaltered.

PRICES OF BREAD, WHEAT, AND FLOUR.

I.—BREAD.

RETURNS have been received from the principal Co-operative Societies and Master Bakers' Associations in Great Britain, and from Local Correspondents, showing the price of ordinary household bread per 4 lbs on December 2nd, 1907.

Returns from Co-operative Societies.

The figures in the following Table are based on 234 Returns from Co-operative Societies in England and Wales, and 132 from Scotland:—

District.	Price on 2nd Dec., 1907.			Price last quarter. (2nd Sept., 1907.)			Price a year ago. (1st Dec., 1906.)		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
ENGLAND AND WALES.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. Counties and Yorkshire }	7	5½	6'18	7	4½	5'67	7	4½	5'59
Lancs. & Cheshire }	6½	4½	5'95	6	4	5'34	6	4	5'16
N. Mid. Counties ...	6½	5	5'84	5½	4	4'91	5½	4	4'66
W. do. do. ...	6½	5	5'83	6	4½	5'23	6	4	5'04
S. do. do. ...	6½	4½	5'60	5½	4	5'00	5½	4	4'79
Eastern Counties... }	6½	5½	5'97	6	5	5'20	5½	4½	5'10
London ...	6	5½	5'86	5½	5	5'48	5½	4½	5'09
S.E. Counties ... }	6½	5	5'09	6	5	5'61	6	5	5'38
S.W. Counties, } Wales & Mon. }	6½	5	5'82	6	4½	5'30	5½	4½	4'86
England and Wales ...	7	4½	5'84	7	4	5'30	7	4	5'07
SCOTLAND.									
N. Counties ...	7	5	6'02	6	5	5'60	6	5	5'28
Eastern Counties ...	7½	4	5'24	7	4	5'76	6	4	5'29
Lanarkshire ...	6½	5½	6'07	6	5	5'60	5½	5	5'18
Other Southern Counties ...	7	6	6'42	6½	5½	5'91	6	5	5'59
Scotland ...	7½	4	6'23	7	4	5'78	6	4	5'37
Great Britain ...	7½	4	5'98	7	4	5'47	7	4	5'18

It will be seen that the mean of the prices in England for December 2nd is over ½d. per 4 lbs. higher than that for September 2nd, 1907. In Scotland an increase of ½d. is shown. As compared with a year ago, an increase of 77d. occurred in England, and of 86d. in Scotland.

The figures in the following Tables are based on Returns received from Master Bakers' Associations and from other sources.

Compared with a month ago, the mean of the prices shows no change. In the North and North-West district of London, however, a rise of ½d. per 4 lbs. is shown. As compared with a year ago, the mean of the prices shows an increase of 8d.

District.	2nd Dec., 1907.			1st Nov., 1907.			1st Dec., 1906.		
	Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.			Predominant Prices.		
	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.	High-est.	Low-est.	Mean.
London:—	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
N. & N.W. ...	5½	5½	5-8	5½	4½	5-0	5	4	4-7
E. & N.E. ...	5½	5	5-4	6	5	5-1	5	4	4-6
S.E. ...	6	5½	5-5	6	5	5-9	5	4½	5-0
S.W. ...	6	5½	5-7	6½	5½	5-9	5	4½	5-0
W. & W.C. ...	6	5½	5-7	6	5	5-5	5	5	5-0
N. Counties & Yorks, Lancs. & Cheshire	7	5½	6-0	7	5½	5-9	6	4½	5-0
Midlands ...	6½	5	5-7	6½	5	5-9	5½	4½	4-8
Eastern Counties ...	6½	5	5-9	6½	5	5-9	5½	4½	4-8
Southern Counties ...	7	5	5-2	7½	5	5-2	6	5	5-3
S. Western Counties and Wales	6½	5	5-8	7	5	5-8	6	4½	5-0
Scotland ...	7	5½	6-2	7	5	6-2	6	4½	5-3
Great Britain ...	7	5	5-8	7½	4½	5-8	6	4	5-0

PRICE OF BREAD IN 28 LARGE TOWNS.

Place.	Predominant Price at Dec. 2nd, 1907	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with		Date.	Am't per 4 lbs.
		A Month ago.	A Year ago.		
London ...	d.	d.	d	Oct. '07	- ½
Birmingham ...	5½	- ½	+ ½	Nov. '07	- ½
Bolton ...	6	+ 1	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Bristol ...	5½ & 6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Cardiff ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Derby ...	5½	+ ½	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½
Huddersfield ...	5	...	...	...	...
Hull ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Ipswich ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Leeds ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ 1
Leicester ...	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Liverpool ...	5½	...	+ 1½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Manchester ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Middlesbro' ...	6	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½
Newcastle ...	6	...	+ 1	Oct. '07	+ ½
Norwich ...	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Nottingham ...	5½	...	+ ½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Oldham ...	5	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Plymouth ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Portsmouth ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Potteries ...	5	...	+ ½	Sept. '07	+ ½
Wolverhampton ...	5½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Aberdeen ...	6	...	+ ½	Nov. '07	+ ½
Dundee ...	7	...	+ 1½	Oct. '07	+ ½
Edinburgh ...	6½	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Glasgow ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Belfast ...	6	...	+ 1	Sept. '07	+ ½
Dublin ...	6½	...	+ 1	Nov. '07	+ ½

It will be seen that, compared with a month ago, the predominant price has risen ½d. per 4 lbs. in 6 of the 28 towns shown in the Table. In Derby the bread now most generally purchased is the quality at 5½d. per 4 lbs., and not as previously the quality at 5d.; there has been no actual advance in the price of bread. As compared with a year ago, each of the towns except Huddersfield shows an increase. In Dundee, where a rise of 1½d. is shown, a drop of ½d. per 4 lbs. occurred on December 3rd.

II.—WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Month.	British Wheat.		Imports.		Average Monthly Price of Flour (Town Households) ex Mill for cash.
	Mean London Gazette Price (England and Wales).	Per cwt. s. d.	(Average Declared Value.)	Per cwt. s. d.	
November 1906 ...	6 1	6 9½	Wheat.	6 9½	8 9½
October 1907 ...	8 0	8 9½	Wheat-meal and Flour.	11 1½	12 9½
November 1907 ...	8 2	8 11½		11 3½	12 6

The imports of wheat during September-November, 1907, amounted to 24,573,200 cwts., or 2,880,500 cwts. more than during the corresponding months of 1906. The imports of wheat-meal and flour during September-November, 1907, amounted to 3,807,265 cwts., or 117,335 cwts. less than in September-November, 1906.

FOREIGN TRADE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Summary for November.

IMPORTS OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MERCHANDISE. NOTE.—The values of the Imports represent the cost, insurance, and freight, or, when goods are consigned for sale, the latest sale value of such goods.

	November,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 20,652,705	£ 20,157,208	£ 23,399,342	+ 2,232,134	+ 1,736,637
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured*	19,586,920	22,307,974	21,928,849	- 379,125	+ 2,341,929
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured†	12,677,262	13,077,345	12,632,401	- 444,944	- 44,861
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	219,009	204,552	194,507	- 10,045	- 24,502
Total value of Imports	£ 33,135,896	£ 55,747,079	£ 57,145,099	+ 1,398,020	+ 4,009,203

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE AND MANUFACTURES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

NOTE.—The values of the Exports represent the cost and the charges of delivering the goods on the ship, and are known as the "free on board" values.

	November,			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, compared with	
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1906.	1905.
I.—Food, Drink, and Tobacco	£ 2,191,836	£ 2,322,243	£ 2,418,146	+ 95,903	+ 226,310
II.—Raw Materials and Articles mainly Unmanufactured†	3,126,293	3,710,265	5,019,077	+ 1,308,812	+ 1,892,784
III.—Articles wholly or mainly Manufactured‡	23,788,222	26,346,061	27,812,820	+ 1,466,759	+ 4,024,598
IV.—Miscellaneous and Unclassified (including Parcel Post)	501,798	595,593	612,133	+ 15,540	+ 110,335
Total value of Exports of British produce.	£ 29,608,149	£ 32,975,162	£ 35,862,176	+ 2,887,014	+ 6,254,027

The exports of foreign and colonial merchandise amounted to £6,692,958 in November, 1905; £7,292,661 in November, 1906; and £6,131,717 in November, 1907.

RAILWAY GOODS AND MINERAL TRAFFIC RECEIPTS.

THE goods and mineral traffic receipts of twenty of the principal railways during the four weeks ended November 30th amounted to £4,651,080, an increase of £156,913 (or 3·4 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

During the 48 weeks ended November 30th, 1907, the amount was £52,293,316, an increase of £2,127,584 (or 4·1 per cent.) as compared with the corresponding period of 1906.

	4 weeks ended November 30th, 1907.		48 weeks ended November 30th, 1907.	
	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.	Amount.	Increase (+) or Decrease (-) as compared with 1906.
English Lines:—	£ 1,739,731	+ 57,073	£ 19,714,615	+ 1,959,986
L. & N. W., Midland, Gt. Central, N. London and N. Staffs.	517,994	+ 10,109	5,609,711	+ 189,036
Gt. Northern, Gt. Eastern, and London & Tilbury Lanes. and Yorks., and N. Eastern	869,766	+ 47,932	9,804,908	+ 537,522
L. & S.W., and Gt. Western L. E. & S. C., and S. E. & C.	688,300	+ 42,000	7,665,700	+ 313,700
Scottish Lines:—	158,591	- 1,334	1,835,357	- 15,796
Glasgow & S. Western, N. British, and Caledonian	549,733	+ 1,150	6,237,819	+ 99,008
Irish Lines:—	126,975	- 17	1,425,206	+ 44,128
Gt. Southern and Western, Midland G.W., and Gt. Northern	126,975	- 17	1,425,206	+ 44,128
Total ...	£ 4,651,080	+ 156,913	£ 52,293,316	+ 2,127,584

* Raw cotton, wool, wood and timber, metallic ores, oils and oil-seeds, hides and skins, &c.
† Yarns and textile fabrics, manufactures of metal and leather, chemicals, &c.
‡ Coal, wool, oil seeds, &c., hides and skins.
§ Yarns, textile fabrics and apparel, metal manufactures, chemicals, &c.

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

(Based on information supplied by the Home Office and the Board of Trade.)

EXCLUSIVE of seamen, the number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment during November, 1907, was 280, an increase of 1 as compared with the previous month, and of 24 as compared with November, 1906.

The mean number for November in the years 1902-1906 was 238, the maximum year being 1902 with 263 deaths, and the minimum year 1903 with 213 deaths.

The total number of fatal accidents at mines and quarries in November, 1907, was 135, as compared with 119 in October, and 100 a year ago. At factories and workshops the total number was 95 in November, as compared with 106 in the previous month, and 102 a year ago. The corresponding figures for workpeople employed in the railway service were 42, 49, and 49 respectively.

The number of fatal accidents to seamen reported during November, 1907, was 93, as compared with 111 in October, 1907, and 95 in November, 1906. The mean for the five years 1902-1906 was 122, the highest number being 189 in 1905, and the lowest 65 in 1904.

During the eleven months ended November, 1907, the total number of workpeople reported as killed in the course of their employment (exclusive of seamen) was 2,751, as compared with 2,613 in the corresponding period of 1906. The total number of seamen killed during the same period was 1,248 in 1907 and 1,091 in 1906.

Trade.	Number of Workpeople killed during			Increase (+) or Decrease (-) in Nov., 1907, as compared with a	
	Nov., 1907.	Oct., 1907.	Nov., 1906.	Month ago.	Year ago.
Railway Service—	42	49	49	- 7	- 7
Brakemen and Goods Guards	5	4	3	+ 1	+ 2
Engine Drivers ...	3	4	3	- 1	...
Firemen ...	2	1	2	+ 1	...
Guards (Passenger) ...	2	2	...	...	+ 2
Permanent Way Men (not including Labourers) ...	8	10	13	- 2	- 5
Porters ...	1	5	7	- 4	- 6
Shunters ...	3	2	2	+ 1	+ 1
Miscellaneous ...	17	20	18	- 3	- 1
Contractors' Servants ...	1	1	1	...	...
Total, Railway Service	42	49	49	- 7	- 7
Mines—	114	105	80	+ 9	+ 34
Underground ...	114	105	80	+ 9	+ 34
Surface ...	16	10	11	+ 6	+ 5
Total, Mines ...	130	115	91	+ 15	+ 39
Quarries over 20 feet deep ...	5	4	9	+ 1	- 4
Factories (including Workshops)	68	75	72	- 9	- 6
Textile—	3	9	4	- 6	- 1
Cotton ...	3	9	4	- 6	- 1
Wool and Worsted ...	4	3	1	+ 1	+ 3
Other Textiles ...	1	1	2	...	- 1
Non-Textile—	5	2	7	+ 3	- 2
Extraction of Metals ...	5	2	7	+ 3	- 2
Founding and Conversion of Metals	1	15	13	- 1	+ 1
Marine and Locomotive Engineering	3	1	4	+ 2	- 1
Ship and Boat Building ...	9	5	10	+ 4	- 1
Wood ...	3	4	1	- 1	+ 2
Chemicals ...	4	6	6	- 2	- 2
Other Non-Textile Industries	20	29	24	- 9	- 4
Total, Factories ...	68	75	72	- 9	- 6
Accidents reported under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5—	29	31	30	- 2	- 1
Docks, Wharves and Quays ...	15	12	14	+ 3	+ 1
Warehouses ...	1	3	1	- 2	...
Buildings to which Act applies	12	15	14	- 3	- 2
Laundries ...	1	1	1	...	...
Total under Factory Act, Ss. 103-5	29	31	30	- 2	- 1
Accidents reported under Notice of Accidents Act, 1894	8	5	5	+ 3	+ 3
Total, exclusive of Seamen	280	279	256	+ 1	+ 24
Seamen—	93	111	95	- 18	- 2
On Trading Vessels—	32	45	17	- 13	+ 15
Sailing ...	32	45	17	- 13	+ 15
Steam ...	50	54	59	- 4	- 9
On Fishing Vessels—	3	4	3	- 1	...
Sailing ...	3	4	3	- 1	...
Steam ...	8	8	16	...	- 8
Total, Seamen	93	111	95	- 18	- 2
Total, including Seamen	373	390	351	- 17	+ 22

DISEASES OF OCCUPATIONS IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

THE total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax reported to the Home Office under the Factory and Workshops Act during November was 68, there being 65 cases of lead poisoning and 3 of anthrax. There were also 2 deaths, 1 due to lead poisoning and the other to anthrax. In addition to the above, 18 cases of lead poisoning (including 2 deaths) were reported among house painters and plumbers.

During the eleven months ended November, 1907, the total number of cases of poisoning and of anthrax was 591, as compared with 645 in the corresponding period of 1906. The total number of deaths in the same period was 38 in 1907 and 49 in 1906. In addition there were 158 cases of lead poisoning (including 34 deaths) among house painters and plumbers in the first eleven months of 1907, as compared with 163 cases (including 32 deaths) in the same period of 1906.

Cases include all attacks, fatal or otherwise, reported to the Home Office during the month, and not previously reported, so far as is known, during the preceding 12 months. Deaths include all fatal cases reported during the month, whether included (as cases) in previous returns or not.

Analysis by Industries.

Industry.	CASES.		DEATHS.	
	Month of Nov., 1907.	Eleven Months ended Nov., 1907.	Month of Nov., 1907.	Eleven Months ended Nov., 1907.
Lead Poisoning.				
Smelting of Metals ...	6	23	35	—
Brass Works ...	—	7	11	—
Sheet Lead and Lead Piping ...	1	5	7	—
Plumbing and Soldering ...	3	15	16	—
Printing ...	1	23	14	—
File Cutting ...	—	10	13	—
Tinning and Enamelling of Iron Hollow-ware	2	23	16	—
White Lead Works ...	8	64	98	—
Red and Yellow Lead Works ...	1	7	6	—
China and Earthenware ...	9	95	98	—
Litho-Transfer Works ...	1	9	4	—
Glass Cutting and Polishing	—	4	4	—
Enamelling of Iron Plates	—	2	4	—
Electrical Accumulator Works	1	17	25	—
Paint and Colour Works	—	7	34	—
Coach Making ..	4	65	75	—
Shipbuilding ...	3	21	24	—
Paint used in other Industries	5	44	35	—
Other Industries ...	11	50	58	—
Total in Factories and Workshops	65	520	577	—
House Painting and Plumbing ...	18	158		

TRADE DISPUTES IN NOVEMBER.*

Number and Magnitude.—Twenty-three new disputes began in November, 1907, as compared with 31 in October, 1907, and 21 in November, 1906. By the 23 disputes, 8,084 workpeople were directly and 904 indirectly affected, and these figures, when added to the number of workpeople affected by old disputes which began before November and were still in progress at the beginning of the month, give a total of 13,210 workpeople involved in trade disputes during November, 1907, compared with 20,266 in October, 1907, and 42,639 in November, 1906.

New Disputes in November, 1907.—In the following Table the new disputes in November are summarised by trades affected:—

Trades.	No. of Disputes.	No. of Workpeople affected.		
		Directly.	Indirectly.	Total.
Coal Mining	2	1,080	103	1,183
Metal, Engineering, and Shipbuilding	5	703	565	1,268
Textile	3	136	236	372
Clothing	5	4,701	...	4,701
Dock Labour	3	1,350	...	1,350
Other	5	114	...	114
Total, November, 1907	23	8,084	904	8,988
Total, October, 1907	31	3,889	3,075	6,964
Total, November, 1906	21	19,461	947	20,408

Causes.—Of the 23 new disputes, 7 arose on demands for increased wages, 3 on objections to reduction in wages, 5 on other wages questions, 3 on details of working arrangements, 2 on questions of Trade Union principle, and 3 from other causes.

Results.—Definite results were reported in the case of 12 new disputes, directly affecting 2,555 persons, and 6 old disputes, directly affecting 345 persons. Of these 18 new and old disputes, 4, directly involving 813 persons, were decided in favour of the workpeople; 8, directly involving 1,172 persons, were decided in favour of the employers; and 6, directly involving

915 persons, were compromised. In the case of 2 other disputes, directly involving 1,480 persons, work has been resumed pending negotiations.

Aggregate Duration.—The aggregate duration in November of disputes that started or were settled in that month was 171,900 working days. In addition, 55,500 working days were lost during November owing to disputes which began before that month and were still in progress at the end of the month. Thus the total duration in November of all disputes, new and old, was 227,400 working days, as compared with 129,500 in the previous month, and 517,800 in the corresponding month of 1906.

Summary for the First Eleven Months of 1906 and 1907.—Summarised by trades, the number of disputes, the number of workpeople affected, and the aggregate duration in working days for the eleven months, January to November, 1906 and 1907 respectively, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—November, 1906.			January—November, 1907.		
	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.	No. of Disputes.	Number of Workpeople affected.	Aggregate Duration in Working Days.
Building	17	1,353	46,800	20	1,001	22,500
Mining and Quarrying	82	78,379	860,600	98	49,776	512,500
Metal, Engineering and Shipbuilding	103	37,612	971,500	100	16,486	422,400
Textile	113	73,346	747,200	133	43,355	608,600
Clothing	31	7,037	86,600	55	12,635	231,600
Transport	15	1,698	9,700	28	8,973	95,200
Other Trades	51	3,908	43,000	74	5,216	85,500
Total	412	203,533	2,775,400	568	137,142	1,978,100

Principal Disputes.—Particulars of the principal disputes which began in November are given below. The details of the other disputes in progress during November are not separately stated in this Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

Principal Trade Disputes.

Occupations.†	Locality.	Number of Workpeople Affected.		Date when Dispute began in 1907.	Duration in Working Days.	Alleged Cause or Object.‡	Result †
		Directly.	Indirectly.†				
Metal and Shipbuilding— Rollers' Helpers, Rollers, Puddlers, &c. Joiners and Shipwrights	Middlesbrough Port Glasgow	20 480	550 ...	4 Nov. 6 Nov.	6 14	For guarantee of 55 tons a shift ... For two-break system while working winter hours	Guarantee of 50 tons given. Work resumed pending further negotiations.
Hat Trade— Felt Hat Makers	Denton and Stockport	4,280	...	26 Oct.	...	Strike at Denton on October 26th against boy labour on certain machines, followed by lock-out at Stockport on November 1st	No settlement reported.
Transport— Dock Labourers Coal Heavers	Belfast Belfast	500 500	...	1 Nov. 14 Nov.	11 11	For advance in wages Members of a Trade Union refused to work with members of another Society	Advance of 1s. per day granted. Majority resumed work unconditionally, rest replaced.

* Disputes involving less than 10 workpeople, and those which lasted less than one day, have, as usual, been omitted from the statistics, except when the aggregate duration exceeded 100 days.
† In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information.
‡ The occupations printed in italics are those of workpeople "indirectly affected," i.e. thrown out of work at the establishments where the disputes occurred, but not themselves on strike or locked out. The statements of cause and result do not apply to these persons.

GREEK SEAMEN'S PENSION FUND.*

The regulations hitherto in force in Greece for providing pensions for superannuated and incapacitated seamen have been superseded by those contained in a new law promulgated on August 3rd (O.S.), 1907.

Old age pensions are granted to seamen at the age of 56 years, provided that 25 years of service have been recorded, and invalids' pensions to seamen incapacitated through accident, or on becoming unfit for further duty through any cause, after 15 years' service. Pensions are also granted to widows and orphans of pensioned

* Based on a despatch to the Foreign Office from H.M. Minister at Athens.

seamen, seamen killed by accident, and seamen who die after 15 years' service.

The resources of the Government fund from which these payments are provided consist mainly of compulsory deductions from wages, contributions from shipowners, from the revenues of maritime communes, and from port funds, also from dues payable by seamen on marriage, fees charged for sea-service books, for issue of certificates and log books, and a number of other sources tabulated in the law.

The scale of pensions is based on the average rate of monthly contributions deducted from the seamen's wages.

CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR.*

Wages.

Changes reported in November.—The net effect of all the changes reported in November was an increase of £10,665 per week, as compared with an increase of £4,823 per week in October, 1907, and one of £3,580 per week in November, 1906. The number of workpeople affected was 284,258, of whom 280,758 received advances amounting to £10,769 per week, and 3,500 sustained decreases amounting to £104 per week. The total number affected by changes in the preceding month was 68,765, and in November, 1906, 159,939.

Three changes, affecting 275,300 workpeople, were arranged by Conciliation Boards; and five changes, affecting 4,618 workpeople, took effect under sliding scales. The remaining changes, affecting 4,340 workpeople, were arranged directly between employers and workpeople, or their representatives; one of these changes, affecting 35 workpeople, being preceded by a dispute causing stoppage of work.

Summary for the Eleven completed Months of 1907.—The total number of workpeople (separate individuals) whose wages were changed, so far as reported during the eleven months ended November 30th, 1907, was 1,219,877, as compared with 943,625 for the corresponding period of 1906. The changes arranged gave 1,219,044 workpeople a net increase of £190,404 per week, and 833 workpeople a net decrease of £122 per week. The net effect of the changes was thus an increase of £190,282 per week, as compared with an increase of £46,726 per week in the corresponding period of 1906.

Summarised by trades, the number of workpeople affected by these reported changes, and the net result on their weekly wages, were as follows:—

Groups of Trades.	January—November.			
	1906.		1907.	
Building	No. 3,087	£ 162	No. 9,863	£ 248
Coal Mining	308,488	+19,616	797,041	+164,479
Iron, &c., Mining	8,540	+ 865	15,540	+ 2,303
Quarrying	4,280	— 58	3,021	+ 62
Pig Iron Manufacture	17,054	+ 1,188	16,495	+ 1,665
Iron and Steel Manufacture	53,465	+ 4,079	54,507	+ 4,995
Engineering and Shipbuilding	144,980	+ 8,059	49,073	+ 2,115
Other Metal Trades	982	+ 79	1,934	+ 122
Textile Trades	391,299	+12,352	252,569	+11,543
Printing, &c., Trades	1,415	+ 170	9,894	+ 527
Glass, &c., Trades	1,020	+ 69	4,233	+ 348
Other Trades	2,777	+ 216	70,762	+ 1,419
Employees of Local Authorities	6,228	+ 233	5,844	+ 456
Total	943,625	+46,726	1,219,877	+190,282

Hours.

No changes in hours of labour were reported during November, 1907. The total number of workpeople reported as affected by changes in hours of labour in the eleven months ended November 30th, 1907, was 30,919, the net decrease in their working hours being 67,258 per week.

Principal Changes in Wages in November.

Particulars of the principal changes in rates of wages reported in November are given below. The details of the other changes reported are not separately stated in the Table, but they are included in the preceding statistics.

PRINCIPAL CHANGES IN RATES OF WAGES REPORTED IN NOVEMBER.

Trade.	Locality.	Date from which change takes effect in 1907.	Occupation.	Approximate Number of Workpeople affected by		Particulars of Change. (Decreases in italics.)
				Increase.	Decrease.	
Coal Mining	Durham	11 & 18 Nov.	Underground Workers, Banksmen, Cokemen, Enginemen and Mechanics Other Surface Workers ...	110,000	...	Advance of 6½ per cent., making wages 53½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
	South Wales and Monmouthshire	1 Dec.	Hewers, other Underground and Surface Workers	165,000	...	Advance of 6½ per cent., making wages 50½ per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Quarrying	Cumberland	1 Oct.	Limestone Quarrymen	300	...	Advance of 2½ per cent., making wages 60 per cent. above the standard of 1879.
Pig Iron Manufacture	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	1st pay Nov.	Blastfurnacemen	700	...	Advance of 1½ per cent.
	Scotland	1 Nov.	Blastfurnacemen and Labourers ...	...	3,500	Advance, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., making wages 15 per cent. above the standard of 1905. <i>Decrease, under sliding scale, of 2½ per cent., leaving wages 30 per cent. above the standard of 1st January, 1899.</i>
Engineering	Colchester and Wyvenhoe	1st pay Nov.	Fitters, Turners, Smiths, Patternmakers, &c.	200	...	Advance of 1s. per week to those receiving 50s. per week and under.
Metal	Halifax & District	11 Oct.	Wire Drawers	275	...	Advances of 5 per cent. and 7½ per cent. on piece rates.
	Wolverhampton and District	1 Nov.	Fitting and Socket Makers (Tube Trade)	900	...	Advance of 2½ per cent. on piece rates.
Printing	Leeds	11 Oct.	Bookbinders and Machine Rulers ...	100	...	Advance of 2s. per week in minimum rate (32s. to 34s.).
	Rochdale	19 Oct.	Compositors, Machinemen, Linotype Operators, Bookbinders and Machine Rulers	105	...	Advance of 2s. per week. Rates after change: Compositors, Machinemen, Bookbinders and Machine Rulers, 34s. per week; Linotype Operators, 41s. 2d. per week.
Other	Glasgow	1 Nov.	Compositors and Machinemen ...	1,400	...	Advance to a minimum rate of 35s. 6d. per week.
	Cardiff and Barry	1 Nov.	Ship Painters Casua Men ...	200	...	Advance of 6d. per day (4s. 6d. to 5s.).

NOTE.—Coal Mining.—Early in December was arranged that the wages of miners in Scotland should be advanced by 1½ per cent., making their wages 87½ per cent. above the standard of 1888. An advance of 5 per cent. in the rate of wages of miners in the Federated Districts has been reported as arranged to take effect from the first making up day in January, 1908, making their wages 60 per cent. above the standard.

Engineering.—Advances have been reported, to take effect early in 1908, in the rates of wages of engineers in Oldham and District and in Bury and District. Full particulars will appear in the January GAZETTE.

* Based on information obtained from all available sources, verified and corrected by direct application to the Employers, Trade Unions, and other parties concerned. In making up the totals for the several months of the year, the figures previously published are amended in accordance with the most recent information. The following kinds of changes are not included in the statistics:—(1) Changes in wages affecting agricultural labourers, seamen, and railway servants; (2) Increments accruing under scales of pay, as in the case of policemen, some municipal employees, and many railway servants, &c. (3) Changes in pay of individuals, the grant of extra pay as compensation for extra work, &c.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON HUMIDITY IN COTTON FACTORIES.

The Home Secretary has appointed a Departmental Committee to inquire into the subject of artificial humidity in cotton weaving factories.

The chairman of the committee is Sir Hamilton Freer-Smith, late one of His Majesty's Superintending Inspectors of Factories, and the members are:—

Joseph Cross, Esq., general secretary Northern

Counties Amalgamated Association of Weavers; Henry Higon, Esq., chairman North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association; T. Roberts, Esq., chairman Darwen Cotton Manufacturers' Association; D. J. Shackleton, Esq., M.P.; James Lorrain Smith, Esq., M.D., Victoria University, Manchester.

The secretary to the Committee is Duncan R. Wilson, Esq., one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories, Factory Department, Home Office.

of the Esk Friendly Soc., Grosmont, Yorks. *Scotland*.—Nil. *Ireland*—2, viz., Killinagh Credit Soc., Barran, co. Cavan; Pallas Agricultural Bank, Pallas, co. Wexford,

(2) SOCIETIES AND UNIONS CEASING TO EXIST.

	Notices Received in Nov. of		Registry Cancelled.
	Commencement of Dissolution or Winding-up.	Termination of Dissolution or Winding-up.	
Trade Unions	1	...	2
Industrial and Provident Societies	...	...	1
Friendly Societies... ..	...	13	4
" Branches ... ..	...	28	...
Building "	2	4	...

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO LABOUR RECEIVED DURING NOVEMBER.

UNITED KINGDOM.

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour). Return showing Railway Servants of Certain Classes on Duty for more than twelve hours at a time, &c., during the month of July, 1907. [Cd. 3825: pp. 39: price 4d.]

Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties during the three months ending June 30th, 1907. [Cd. 3803: pp. 115: price 1s.]

Tinning of Metals. Special Report on Dangerous or Injurious Processes in the Coating of Metal with Lead or a mixture of Lead and Tin. By Miss Anderson and Dr. Legge. With a Report on an Experimental Investigation into the Conditions of Work in Tinning Workshops, and Appendices. By G. P. Duckering. [Cd. 3793: pp. 42: price 1s.]

Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905. Return as to Proceedings of Distress Committees in England and Wales, and of the Central (Unemployed) Body for London during the year ended March 31st, 1907. [H.C. 326: pp. 30: price 3d.]

Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Local Government Board, 1906-7. [Cd. 3665: pp. cxcviii. + 534: price 3s. 9d.]

Iron and Steel, 1906. Memorandum and Statistical Tables showing the Production and Consumption of Iron Ore and Pig Iron, and the Production of Steel in the United Kingdom and Principal Foreign Countries. [H.C. 350: pp. 29: price 3d.]

Report on the Production of Wool in Great Britain in 1905 and 1906. [S.O. Publication: pp. iii. + 59: price 4d.]

Coal Tables, 1906. Production, Consumption, and Imports and Exports of Coal in the British Empire and the Principal Foreign Countries in each year from 1885 to 1906. [H.C. 340: pp. 60: price 6d.]

Royal Commission on Congestion in Ireland. Seventh Report [Cd. 3784: pp. 3: price ½d.]. *First Appendix to 7th Report*. Evidence 16th May to 11th June. [Cd. 3785: pp. lxxxiii. + 341: price 3s. 5d.]. *Second Appendix*. Statistics of the Number, Valuation, Acreage and Population of Holdings in Ireland. [Cd. 3786: pp. viii. + 401: price 3s. 3d.]

Agricultural Statistics of Ireland, with Detailed Report for the year 1906. Holdings and occupiers, produce of the crops, wages of agricultural labourers, &c. [Cd. 3791: pp. xxxviii. + 165: price 10d.]

(All the United Kingdom Reports may be obtained direct from Wyman & Sons, Limited, Fetter Lane, London, E.C., or through any bookseller.)

BRITISH COLONIES.

Canada. The Labour Gazette, October, 1907. Proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act during September; Canadian legislation with regard to mechanics and wage earners' liens; Trades Union Congresses in Canada, &c.

New Zealand. Journal of the Department of Labour, October, 12th, 1907. Disputes and awards under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act; cases under the Workers' Compensation for Accidents Act, &c.

Victoria. Report of the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the year 1906. [Melbourne: J. Kemp: pp. 8: price 6d.]

Western Australia. Sixth Annual Return and Report of Proceedings under the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1902. for the year ended December 31st, 1906. [Perth: F. W. Simpson: pp. 29.]

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

United States.

Labour Bulletin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. No. 53. October, 1907. Recent factory legislation in Massachusetts; new Federal immigration law, &c.

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labour (Department of Commerce and Labour). No. 71. July, 1906. Wages and Hours of Labour 1890-1906. Retail Prices of Food, 1890-1906.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labour, 1906. Strikes and Lock-outs, 1881 to 1905. [Washington, Government Printing Office: pp. 979.]

Twenty-fifth Annual Coal Report of the Illinois Bureau of Labour Statistics, 1906. With the Eighth Annual Report of the Illinois Free Employment Offices for the year ended September 30th, 1906. [Springfield, Illinois: Philipp Bros.: State Printers: pp. 505.]

Twelfth Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labour and Industrial Statistics of the State of Wisconsin, 1905-1906. I.—Co-operative Stores. II.—Strikes. III.—Liquor Traffic in Wisconsin and in the United States. IV.—The Housing Problem in Wisconsin. V.—

Wisconsin's Resources, Industries and Opportunities. VI.—Manufacturing Returns. VII.—Factory and Bakery Inspection, Free Employment Offices, and Appendix. (Madison, Democrat Printing Co.: pp. 1379.)

France.

Journal of the French Labour Department, October, 1907. Statistics of disputes, conciliation and arbitration, and state and municipal subventions to unemployed funds in 1906. [Paris: Berger-Levrault et Cie: price 2d.]

Statistical Yearbook of Paris, 1904 (with chief details for 1905). Préfecture de la Seine (Service de la Statistique Municipale), 1906. [Paris: Masson et Cie., 120, Boulevard Saint-Germain: pp. xxxii. + 1124: price 4s. 10d.]

International Population Statistics, based on State Registers, from the earliest dates recorded to 1905. French Ministry of Labour, 1907. [Paris: Imprimerie Nationale: pp. xxxii. + 880.]

Germany.

Journal of the German Labour Department, November, 1907. Prices of meat, &c. in German towns, 1900-07, and in other towns, 1906-07. [Berlin: Carl Heymanns Verlag: price 1d.]

Statistics of Employment, Wages, &c., of Ship Carpenters in Germany, 1899-1906. Vorstand des Zentralverbandes der Schiffszimmerer Deutschlands für Boot Holz und Eisenschiffbau. [Hamburg: W. Müller: pp. 48.]

(1) *Statistical Yearbook of Barmen, 1906*; (2) *Administrative Report of Barmen, 1906*. Statistical Office of Barmen. [Barmen: D. B. Wiemann: pp. viii. + 88 and xv. + 200.]

The Forty-eighth Congress of the General Union of German Co-operative Societies. (Leipzig, Aug. 12th-15th, 1907.) [Berlin: J. Guttentag, W. Lützowstrasse, 107/108: pp. 430.]

Austria.

Journal of the Austrian Labour Department, October, 1907. Contains articles on employment and disputes in September. [Vienna: A. Hölder, K. K. Hof-und Universitäts-Buchhändler: price 2d.]

Yearbook of the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, 1906. Part 2. Mining in 1906. Vol. 2. Contains statistics of earnings and hours of labour in Austrian mines in 1906. [Vienna: K. K. Hof-und Staatsdruckerei: pp. 386.]

Italy.

Journal of the Italian Labour Department. October, 1907. Contains article on the International Co-operative Congress at Cremona. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana: price 3d.]

Statistics of Strikes in Italy in 1904. Italian Labour Department, 1907. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C., Via Umbria: pp. 317.]

Journal of the Italian Department of Credit and Thrift, August, 1907. Contains text of the new Hungarian law of 1907 on insurance against sickness and accidents. [Rome: Tipografia Nazionale di G. Bertero e C.: price 1s. 2½d.]

Proceedings of the Higher Council of Labour, 6th, 7th and 8th Sessions (December, 1905; May, 1906; and January, 1907). Italian Labour Department. [Rome: Officina Poligrafica Italiana, Via della Guardiola, 22: pp. 119 + 189 + 144.]

Belgium.

Journal of the Belgian Labour Department, October 31st and November 15th, 1907. Disputes in September, employment in October, &c. [Brussels: F. Vanbuggenhoudt: price of each part, 1d.]

Holland.

Journal of the Dutch Central Statistical Office, October, 1907. Contains articles on employment and disputes in September. [The Hague: Gebroeder Belinfante: price 2d.]

Spain.

Journal of the Spanish Labour Department, October, 1907. Contains text of Chilean law on weekly rest. [Madrid: Imprenta de la Sucesora de M. Minuesa de los Rios: price 2½d.]

Switzerland.

Statistical Yearbook of Zürich, 1906. Statistical Office of Zürich. [Zürich, 1907: Rascher & Co.: pp. 156: price 1s. 7d.]

Russia—Finland

Journal of the Finnish Labour Department, No. 3, 1907. Contains statistics of prices in the second quarter of 1907. [Helsingfors, Kejsersliga Senatens Tryckeri, price 2½d.]

Sweden.

Quarterly Journal of the Swedish Labour Department, No. 4, 1907. Contains statistics of female and child labour in 1905. [Stockholm: P. A. Norstedt and Söner: 3d.]

Factory Inspection in Sweden in 1906. [Stockholm: K. L. Beckmans Boktryckeri: pp. 365.]

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